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(54) Title: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

(57) Abstract:

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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to a resource management system. Stated more particularly, this patent discloses and protects a resource management system that identifies, tracks and corrects deficiencies in resources and predictions, decisions and actions in connection with buying, using, operation and sale of human, operating and manufacturing resources in an enterprise.

BACKGROUND ART

Many systems have been proposed and/or are under development to enable electronic commerce, and particularly to enable electronic processing of transactions for both business-to-business and business-to-consumer transactions. Such systems generally focus on providing a significant reduction in the cost of procurement of goods. Such cost reductions are achieved by having automatic and paperless transactions replace manual and paper based transactions which are prone to error. Also, such cost reductions may be achieved by creating electronic marketplaces, such as auctions, to enable multiple vendors and multiple buyers to compete in the marketplace for goods and services.

These systems often assume that a purchaser of a good or service has accurately and completely specified the good or service which is desired, and has determined which good or

service would be best. Thus, purchasers of goods and services tend to simply repurchase goods and services that have been purchased in the past, particularly when purchasing equipment for maintenance, repairs, and operation of a plant. By continuing to purchase the same equipment, purchasers cannot achieve cost savings that may be provided by identifying and purchasing better equipment.

SUMMARY DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

In some industries, cost savings that may be introduced by improving the selection, buying, use, operation and sale of all resources, in alignment with corporate goals, dwarfs the potential cost savings that may be provided merely by automating transactions for the procurement of goods and services. The present invention provides a mechanism through which cost benefits may be obtained by identifying, tracking and correcting deficiencies in resources and predictions, decisions and actions in connection with buying, using, operation and sale of human, operating and manufacturing resources in an enterprise. Such a mechanism allows the specification of the best solution for a specific application based on constraints, such as goals and objectives, and resources available in the enterprise. This mechanism specifies a "best-in-class" solution or an optimal solution given certain constraints. Other possible solutions are specified in terms of their deficiencies with respect to this solution. Costs are associated with these deficiencies in terms of either decrease life or other costs incurred. Such costs may be precomputed and stored in the system for as many possible solutions. By combining actual data about actual resources with the predicted costs for the optimal solution, costs for nonoptimal solutions are identified, and may be associated with corrective actions. By storing all of this information in a database that links a possible solution to its costs, entering of the actual data about actual resources can automatically provide a measure of the cost of the nonoptimal solution.

All possible combinations of resources of interest are assigned a cost, e.g., in terms of decreased life, increased costs, etc. with respect to a best in class combination or other solution. These combinations and associated costs are stored in a database. Each combination generally has one or more identified deficiencies and one or more corresponding corrective actions. The actual combination in use is specified by inputs to the system, including but not limited to enterprise resource planning systems, other systems for manufacturing and automation, inputs from front line workers who enter data in checklists and data entry forms. Given a specification of the actual system in use, a cost of that system,

with respect to a best in class system or optimal solution given specified constraints, and corrective actions may be retrieved from the database.

By tracking how the actual combinations arise in the enterprise, as the result of decisions, predictions and actions, etc., accountability can be assigned. To track
5 accountability, the system, in part, stores known suboptimal combinations and assigns accountability to entities that implement these combinations. Also all predictions, decisions and actions made using this system are tracked to allow for accountability when a deficient prediction, decision or action is made.

Accordingly, in one aspect, a resource management system includes a resource
10 characteristic database. In the resource characteristic database, for each of a plurality of resources, a skill level required for the resource is stored. In one embodiment, an enterprise resource database may include, for each of a plurality of human resources in the enterprise, a skill level of the human resource. In another embodiment, in the resource characteristic
15 database, for each of the plurality of resources, information about attributes of the resource may be stored. In another embodiment, in the enterprise resource database, for each of a plurality of resources in the enterprise, actual characteristics of the resource may be stored. The actual characteristics may be defined as one of machine inputs or inputs defining what an operators sees, measures, hears, smells, tastes or touches.

In another aspect, a resource management system may include an enterprise resource
20 database. In the enterprise resource database, for each of a plurality of resources in the enterprise, actual characteristics of the resource may be stored. The actual characteristics may be defined as one of machine inputs or inputs defining what an operators sees, hears, smells, tastes or touches. In another embodiment, in the resource characteristic database, for each of the plurality of resources, information about attributes of the resource may be stored.

25 In another aspect, a resource management system includes an enterprise resource database for storing information about resources being used in an enterprise. A deficiency database stores information regarding interactions among resources and known deficiencies related to the resources and the interactions among the resources. Deficiencies related to the resources being used in the enterprise are identified from the database. In one embodiment,
30 an indication of estimated life of a resource being used in an enterprise is received. The deficiency database includes, for each deficiency of each resource, a cost impact of the deficiency. An efficiency analyzer uses the cost impact of the deficiency from the deficiency database and estimated life of the resource to determine whether the use of the resource meets

defined constraints. In another embodiment, an enterprise performance database includes information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities. An accountability assignor, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that
5 resulted in the deficiency. In another embodiment, the deficiency database includes for each resource a specification of a life associated with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource. A resource life estimator, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a life for the resource associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database. In another embodiment, the deficiency database includes for each resource a
10 specification of one or more failure modes associated with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource. A failure mode predictor, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a failure mode associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database. In another embodiment, the deficiency database includes, for each resource, display information about a failure mode corresponding to the deficiency. A user may be
15 prompted for selection, using the display information from the deficiency database, to identify a failure mode of the resource in response to a failure of the resource. In another embodiment, the deficiency database that stores an indication of a failure mode corresponding to a deficiency for each resource. An indication of a failure mode of a resource may be received. A deficiency identifier identifies one or more deficiencies in the
20 resource related to the indicated failure mode using the deficiency database. In another embodiment, the deficiency database stores information about one or more corrective actions associated with each deficiency of each resource. An indication of a deficiency of a resource is received. The corrective action associated with the deficiency of the resource is accessed from the deficiency database. In another embodiment, a life cycle cost analyzer computes a
25 life cycle cost corresponding to the deficiency identified. In another embodiment, a database stores competitive pricing information about the resource and for storing information regarding cost structure of a purchaser of a resource. A price for the resource may be identified from the database using the stored cost information and stored pricing information. In another embodiment, a pricing analyzer has an input for receiving information describing a
30 desired resource, and accesses the enterprise resource database to retrieve information about suppliers for the resource, and has an output for providing an indication of a price and supplier for the resource. In these embodiments, results may be generated according to specified constraints, such as goals and objectives, of an enterprise. Results may be

automatically changed according to changes in the enterprise resources or in the specified constraints of the enterprise.

In another aspect, a resource management system includes a deficiency database for storing information regarding interactions among resources and known deficiencies related to the interactions. A specification of resources being used in an enterprise is received. Deficiencies related to the specified resources are identified from the database.

In another aspect, a resource management system receives an indication of a failure mode of a resource. A deficiency database stores an indication of a deficiency associated with a failure mode for each of a plurality of resources. A deficiency identifier identifies one or more deficiencies in the resource related to the indicated failure mode using the deficiency database. In one embodiment, the failure mode is an estimated failure mode. In another embodiment, the failure mode is an actual cause of failure. The resource may be an operating resource, a human resource, or a manufacturing resource. In one embodiment, the deficiency database includes for each resource a specification of a life associated with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource. A resource life estimator, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a life for the resource associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database. In another embodiment, a life cycle cost analyzer computes a life cycle cost corresponding to the deficiency identified. In another embodiment, the deficiency database includes, for each deficiency of each resource, a cost impact of the deficiency. An indication of estimated life of a resource being used in an enterprise is received. An efficiency analyzer uses the cost impact of the deficiency from the deficiency database and estimated life of the resource to determine whether the use of the resource meets defined constraints.

In another aspect, a resource management system includes a deficiency database for storing information about a plurality of resources, including information about one or more corrective actions associated with each deficiency of each of the plurality of resources. An indication of a deficiency of a resource is received. The corrective action associated with the deficiency of the resource is accessed from the deficiency database.

In another aspect, a resource management system includes an enterprise performance database including information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities. An accountability assignor, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that resulted in the deficiency.

In another aspect, a resource management system receives an indication of estimated life of a resource being used in an enterprise. A deficiency database includes, for each deficiency of each resource, a cost impact of the deficiency. An efficiency analyzer uses the cost impact of the deficiency from the deficiency database and estimated life of the resource to determine whether the use of the resource meets defined constraints. In one embodiment, an enterprise performance database includes information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities. An accountability assignor, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that resulted in the deficiency.

In another aspect, a resource management system includes a deficiency database including for each of a plurality of resources a specification of one or more failure modes associated with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource. A failure mode predictor, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a failure mode associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database.

In another aspect, a resource management system includes a deficiency database including for each of a plurality of resources a specification of a life associated with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource. A resource life estimator, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a life for the resource associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database. In one embodiment, a failure mode predictor, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a failure mode associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database.

In another aspect, a resource management system includes a deficiency database including, for each of a plurality of resources, information for each resource about one or more deficiencies and corresponding display information about a failure mode corresponding to the deficiency. A user is prompted for selection, using the display information from the deficiency database, to identify a failure mode of the resource in response to a failure of the resource. In one embodiment, a database stores information describing a predicted life and a predicted failure mode of a resource. An actual failure mode and actual life of a resource are compared to the predicted life and predicted failure mode of the resource. In one embodiment, the deficiency database stores an indication of a deficiency associated with a failure mode for each of a plurality of resources. An indication of a failure mode of a resource is received. A deficiency identifier identifies one or more deficiencies in the resource related to the indicated failure mode using the deficiency database. In another

embodiment, the deficiency database stores information about one or more corrective actions associated with each deficiency of each resource. An indication of a deficiency of a resource is received. The corrective action associated with the deficiency of the resource is accessed from the deficiency database. In another embodiment, an enterprise performance database
5 includes information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities. An accountability assignor, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that resulted in the deficiency. In another embodiment, a life cycle cost analyzer computes a life cycle cost corresponding to the deficiency identified.

10 In another aspect, a resource management system includes an enterprise resource database that stores information describing resources in an enterprise. A description of goals and objectives is received. An ideal combination of resources for meeting the described goals and objectives is determined using the enterprise resource database.

In another aspect, a resource management system includes an enterprise resource
15 database. A pricing analyzer has an input for receiving information describing a desired resource, and accesses the enterprise resource database to retrieve information about suppliers for the resource, and has an output for providing an indication of a price and supplier for the resource.

In another aspect, a system for providing customized engineered products receives an
20 indication of resources with which the engineered product is to interact. The engineering product is specified to be compatible with the identified resources. The engineered product is then manufactured as specified.

In another aspect, a system for providing specific installation and operating
instructions for an engineered product includes a database for storing a specific installation
25 and operating instruction variant for each variant of the engineered product. A specification for the engineered product is received. The database is accessed to retrieve the specific installation and operating instruction for the specified engineered product. In one embodiment, the database further includes a corrective action associated with a deficiency in the specification of the engineered product. The installation and operating instructions for the
30 specified engineered product include the corrective action.

In another aspect, a system for managing resources includes a database for storing information describing deficiencies of a supplier of resources. An indication of a desired

resource is received. The ability of the supplier to provide the desired resource is determined from the database according to the described deficiencies.

In another aspect, a system for managing sales of a resource includes a database for storing competitive pricing information about the resource and for storing information regarding cost structure of a purchaser of a resource. A price for the resource is determined from the database using the stored cost information and stored pricing information.

In another aspect, an information service system includes a resource characteristic database for storing information describing one or more attributes of a plurality of resources. An actual resource database stores information about resources in use in one or more enterprises. A performance database stores information about performance of the resources in use. A deficiency database stores information describing one or more deficiencies of the plurality of resources in the resource characteristic database. Multiple entities are enabled to access the databases. In one embodiment, the deficiency database includes, for each resource, display information about a failure mode corresponding to the deficiency. A user from one of the multiple entities is prompted for selection, using the display information from the deficiency database, to identify a failure mode of the resource in response to a failure of the resource. In another embodiment, the deficiency database stores an indication of a failure mode corresponding to a deficiency for each resource. An indication of a failure mode of a resource is received. A deficiency identifier identifies one or more deficiencies in the resource related to the indicated failure mode using the deficiency database. In another embodiment, the deficiency database stores information about one or more corrective actions associated with each deficiency of each resource. An indication of a deficiency of a resource is received. The corrective action associated with the deficiency of the resource is accessed from the deficiency database. In another embodiment, an enterprise performance database includes information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities. An accountability assignor, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that resulted in the deficiency. In another embodiment, a life cycle cost analyzer computes a life cycle cost corresponding to the deficiency identified.

In another aspect, a resource management system includes a database for storing information describing each of a plurality of resources, and information describing deficiencies in each of the resources and deficiencies arising from interactions among the plurality of resources. A selection of a combination of resources is allowed. Deficiencies in

the selected combination of resources are indicated and changes in resources are suggested to remove one or more deficiencies. In one embodiment, a compatibility analyzer is coupled to the resource characteristic database, the compatibility analyzer having an input that receives the data indicative of a characteristic of a first resource for comparison of a characteristic of a second resource, to determine a modification which, when made to one of the first resource and the second, allows the first resource to be compatible with the second resource. In another embodiment, data indicative of a characteristic of a first resource is provided from the resource characteristic database for comparison of a characteristic of a second resource. An indication of a modification is received which, when made to one of the first resource and the second, allows the first resource to be compatible with the second resource.

In another aspect, a human resource management system includes a resource characteristic database including for each resource, a required skill level for the resource. An enterprise resource database includes, for each resource, an associated human resource, and for each human resource, a skill level. Deficiencies in the association of human resources with resources and associated corrective actions are indicated.

In another aspect, a purchasing system includes a failure analyzer that presents an individual with possible causes of failure of a resource and associated corrective actions, wherein a corrective action includes a purchase of a resource. In response to selection of a cause of failure, a purchase transaction for the resource is initiated.

In another aspect, a process for building a resource management system includes creating a database including a solution defined as a combination of resources and information regarding deficiencies of other resources with respect to the solution. During use of the resource management system, information about resources being used is added to the database, including deficiencies of the resources with respect to the solution.

In another aspect, a resource management system includes a database for storing information describing each of a plurality of resources, and information describing deficiencies in each of the resources and deficiencies arising from interactions among the plurality of resources. A selection of a combination of resources is allowed. Deficiencies in predictions, decisions and/or actions related to the selected combination of resources are indicated.

In another aspect, a resource management system includes a failure analyzer that presents an individual with possible causes of failure of a resource and associated corrective actions, wherein a corrective action includes an action related to the resource. In response to

selection of a cause of failure, the action related to the resource is initiated. In one embodiment, the action comprises defining a specification of a product. In another embodiment, the action comprises generation of engineered installation and operating instructions. It should be understood that the foregoing aspects are not limiting of the present invention. The process performed by such systems, a computer program product including computer readable media storing computer programs for performing such processes, the various databases, both individually and in combination, and the various aspects, both individually and in combination, are all aspects of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawing figures:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of an example resource management system;

Figs. 2A-B are charts illustrating example data in a user database L;

Fig. 3 is a chart illustrating example data in a deficiency database M;

Fig. 4 is a chart illustrating example data in a deficiency database M;

Figs. 5A-B are charts illustrating example data in a deficiency database M;

Fig. 6 is a chart illustrating example data in a deficiency database M;

Fig. 7A-B is a chart illustrating example data in a deficiency database M;

Fig. 8 is a chart illustrating example data in a resource characteristic database N;

Fig. 9 is a chart illustrating example data in a resource characteristic database N;

Fig. 10 is a chart illustrating example data in a resource characteristic database N;

Figs. 11A-B are a chart illustrating example data in an enterprise resource database O;

Figs. 12A-G are a chart illustrating example data in an enterprise resource database O;

Figs. 13 is a chart illustrating example data in an enterprise resource database O;

Figs. 14A-B are a chart illustrating example data in an enterprise performance database P;

Fig. 15 illustrates the interrelationship of Figs. 16A-E;

Figs. 16A-E are a data flow diagram illustrating an example resource management system;

Fig. 17 is a flow chart describing an example purchasing process for a resource; and

Fig. 18 is a chart illustrating an example determination of product life and expected failure mode.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An enterprise uses various resources. These resources generally include human, manufacturing and operating resources, including products and services. The resources used by an enterprise can be grouped into various resource groups based on their function within
5 the enterprise.

For example, a human resource group may include human resources used in the enterprise and products and services used to manage those resources. Human resources include contractors and employees acting in various capacities to make decisions, take actions and make predictions involving the enterprise. They include maintenance staff,
10 machine operators, cleaners, supervisors, managers, *etc.* Products and services for managing those human resources include payroll systems, benefit plans, *etc.*

A manufacturing resource group includes manufacturing resources used as raw materials in manufacturing of goods or provision of services. In the case of a steel manufacturing plant, for example, a manufacturing resource includes raw materials such as
15 steel, and water. In the case of a newspaper, for example, the manufacturing resource group includes raw news reports received from news wire services.

An operating resource group includes the operating resources used by the enterprise to convert manufacturing resources into goods or services. For a manufacturing plant, for example, the operating resource group includes pieces of rotating equipment such as pumps
20 and seals, and physical facilities such as factory building. For a newspaper, the operating resource group includes, for example, equipment used by reporters who produce the news articles.

Every resource has a set of characteristics. These characteristics include specified features and actual features of the resource (e.g., a specified dimension vs. the actual
25 dimension of a part) and generic information such as a type of the resource (e.g., is a mechanical seal a component seal or a cartridge seal). A resource also may have a rating, such as a skill level for a human resource or a required skill level of an individual for interacting with the resource.

A resource also affects other resources in an enterprise, and is affected by other
30 resources. For example, a maintenance person's skill level can affect operation of equipment for which he or she is responsible. In addition, the quality of training provided to a worker by a supervisor affects the worker's skill level. A mechanical seal affects operation of a pump to which it is connected, safety of the staff who work nearby, and operation of downstream

equipment. A mechanical seal also is affected by chemicals being pumped, quality of the pump to which it is attached, and workmanship with which it was installed. Thus, the performance of any resource, and thus the enterprise, not only depends on the quality of the resource and its own characteristics but also on the manner in which the resource interacts with other resources in the enterprise.

A deficiency in a resource is anything that is less than a best performance for a resource. If an attribute or characteristic is not as desirable as another attribute or characteristic for a given resource, then the one attribute or characteristic is deficient as compared to the other. Also, a deficiency may be relative to a best-in-class resource or relative to a goal or objective of an enterprise. A deficiency also may arise in a prediction, decision or action of an individual. Performance of an enterprise is improved by identifying, tracking and correcting deficiencies in resources and predictions, decisions and actions in connection with the buying, using, operation and sale of human, operating and manufacturing resources in an enterprise.

There are many types of deficiencies. First, there are those deficiencies which are inherent to a resource, irrespective of the manner in which the resource interacts with other resources in the enterprise. For a product, such a deficiency may be an inferior design, inferior manufacturing or construction, inferior quality assurance during construction, or inferior material used in the product. Such a deficiency also may be a deficiency in acquisition and disposal of the product, for example, from purchasing of the product from resellers, which mark up the price of the product or extra cost involved with disposing the product because of environmental hazard. Such a deficiency also may be inherent in a repaired or rebuilt product.

Second, there are those deficiencies which arise because of the manner in which the resource interacts with other resources in the enterprise. In the case of a mechanical seal, for example, such a deficiency may arise from using the seal in a situation where the seal is contact with corrosive liquids which are not compatible with the materials of construction of the seal. Such a deficiency may also arise from the quality of maintenance performed on the seal, for example, because of low skill or knowledge level of workers.

An embodiment of a resource management system will now be described. In Fig. 1, the resource management system 10 uses one or more of several databases. Example contents and structures for these databases will first be described. The several databases that

may be used include a user database L, deficiency database M, a resource characteristic database N, an enterprise resource database O, and an enterprise performance database P.

One embodiment of such a resource management system is described in the Plant Reliability application, for resources related to seals and pumps in a plant. The principles described therein may be applied to all resources in an enterprise according to the embodiments described herein. In the Plant Reliability application, the user database L includes a customer database, the deficiency database M includes a problem, failure and leakage database, the resource characteristic database N includes a process fluid database, the enterprise resource database O includes an equipment database, and the enterprise performance database includes a plant performance database.

Using the resource management system 10, an enterprise may better specify a resource to be purchased. A corresponding electronic sales system 12 at a resource provider may be used to take the specifications of the various conditions under which a resource will be used to determine compatibility of the resource with those conditions, and select, manufacture and sell that resource to the enterprise. The electronic sales system and resource management system use a database Q that supports performance of such compatibility analysis, specification of the resource to be purchased, and any custom design and manufacturing that may be needed to produce the resource. Such a system for use with mechanical seals is described in the ESP application.

For a general resource management system, the user database L includes general information about the user enterprise, and may include any such information about the enterprise that can be readily obtained, stored and updated. Referring to Figs. 2A-2B, for example, assuming the user is a plant that purchases and installs and uses mechanical seals, the user database may include general information, such as the name, address, contact and/or other information about the user, a profile of the plant, such as the number of pumps, number of seals per pump, etc. The user database also may include cost information, such as an annual estimated expenditure for various resources, such as seals, and other cost information such as cost of labor, cost of related parts, costs of production downtime, cost of failure, cost of electricity, and other information. Other information may include data about manufacturing processes, goals, motives, objectives, and constraints, such as regulatory, environmental and safety concerns, of the enterprise. This information may be initially populated through checklists, data entry, enterprise resource planning systems, and other sources of the information. Conventional techniques may be used to develop a database

structure and an interface for data entry into the database to store this information. Industry information cost centers also may be included.

Deficiency database M is a database of information about predictions, decisions and actions for a resource, and resulting outcomes, along with any related corrective actions.

5 This database may be initially populated using information from those knowledgeable in a particular field. This database includes information about possible problems or failures with a product or service, such as a leakage mode with a seal, and possible causes of the problem or failure, corrective actions, optionally graphics illustrating what the failure should look like or dimensional data defining a characteristic of a failed product, an estimated meantime
10 between failure, an estimated life cycle cost, etc. The information in this database may be comprised of actual measured data or predictions. It should be noted that a prediction, decision or action may be deficient. This database may be continually updated through use of the resource management system as further deficiencies, corrective actions and predicted outcomes are learned for a resource.

15 Because deficiencies arise in part through the interaction between one resource and another, there are several kinds of interactions that may be represented by the data in the deficiency database. For example, considering mechanical seals, some kinds of interactions include, but are not limited to:

1. impacts of advancements in technology.
- 20 2. relationships between required skill levels for a human resource to specify, purchase, install, operate, dispose, or sell a resource and actual skill levels of the available human resources.
3. interactions between operating resources.
4. relationship between an operating resource and a required skill level of a human
25 resource.
5. interactions between an operating resource and a manufacturing resource.
6. relationship between a manufacturing resource and a required skill level of a human resource.

For example, as shown in Fig. 3, the data may represent how advancements in
30 technology impact an estimated decrease in product life for products such as shown at 30 that are not the best-in-class product such as shown at 32. In this example, a listing of several seals, and types of seals may be stored. For each seal, information such as the number of seals in the plant 34, may be stored. Industry and plant average information about

characteristics of the items to a known best-in-class item may be provided as indicated at 36 and 38. For example, if a seal is known to experience spring failure when immersed in the process fluid as indicated at 37, this information may be stored. Information about each of the known deficiencies or failure modes of a product may be stored.

5 Referring to Fig. 4, an example of the impact of an operating resource, such as mechanical seal with another operating resource, such as other equipment, will now be described. For example, various design information about a seal may be mapped to measured pump characteristics. The measured pump characteristics combined with the information about the seal may provide information about the projected lifetime of the equipment. The
10 database provides a knowledge based pictorial checklist for the information to be provided by a worker that inspects the equipment. For example, a worker might measure a stuffing-box-to-shaft perpendicularity of .015 on a cartridge or component seal with a rotary design, which may be related to a lifetime of 121 days as indicated at 40. The information may be presented to the user in the form of a drop down menu or checklist. By selecting the value
15 measured, the system records that value and displays the corresponding expected life.

Graphical information also may be stored in the database for a resource, for example to store pictorials and checklists to enable detection of defects in both decisions and workmanship with respect to resources. For example, as shown in Figs 5A and 5B, graphical information of seal settings in incorrect installation may be stored, or graphical information
20 of environmental conditions of failure modes may be shown. The graphical information as shown in Fig. 5A enables a user with any skill level to indicate what the failure mode looks like, accurately and consistently. A checklist as shown in Fig. 5B enables a user to objectively select what they see, hear, touch, smell or measure to identify the most probable cause of failure. By using the graphics and allowing selection in a checklist of the most
25 probable cause of failure, verification may be formed by matching the known causes for the failure modes associated with the selected graphic and the known causes for the selected reasons. Various corrective actions may be stored, such as shown at 50, indicating how to correct the deficiency.

Example information for the deficiency database M that illustrates relationships
30 between an operating resource, such as a mechanical seal, with characteristics of a human resource, such as skill level requirements, is shown in Fig. 6. In this example, information about the general design of different seals as shown at 60 is mapped to predictions, decisions or actions to the skill level 62 of individuals that perform those activities.

Example information for the deficiency database M that illustrates relationships between an operating resource, such as a mechanical seal, with manufacturing resources, such as materials of construction and process fluids, is shown in Figs 7A-7B. In this example, information about the seal 70, such as the materials of construction of glands 71, and sleeves or barrels 72, with the characteristics of the seal, including its metallurgy 73, faces 74 and elastomers 75, are compared for a given process fluid 76. Each combination of characteristics of the two resources may be associated with an impact on the estimated life in comparison to the best in class product. For example, as shown at 77, the example shows a value of 212 days, indicating that this combination of characteristics results in an estimated life that is 212 days less than the best in class. A corrective action for this deficient combination would be identified by the entry in which the estimated decrease in life is zero.

In the foregoing examples, each cell in the matrix of characteristics mapping one resource to another resource can be associated with an impact on the expected lifetime of the resource or an expected failure mode of the resource. Such information may be gathered from those knowledgeable in the field, or may be gathered over time automatically through use of the system.

Resource characteristic database N stores characteristics and attributes of resources. This database includes any information about any human, operating and manufacturing resources, and their interactions. This database may be initially populated through submission of information from those knowledgeable in the field and may be updated over time as the system is used. For example, for resources related to seals, as shown in the ESP application, process fluid recommendations and compatibility ratings for all materials of construction, piping plan recommendations, etc., may be stored in this database.

An example of information that may be stored in the resource characteristic database N includes, for example, data matching a resource to a skill level rating for performing various actions in connection with the resource. As shown in Fig. 8, a seal 80 may be matched to a service skill level rating 82 required to perform various actions 84 in connection with the seal. Similarly, requirements of a pump for a seal may be stored, as shown in Fig. 9. Similarly, requirements of a seal (e.g., materials of construction)for using a process fluid may be stored, as shown in Fig. 10.

The enterprise resource database O includes the characteristics and attributes of all H, M and O resources that actually exist in an enterprise. This information may be obtained by checklists, data entry, data acquisition from an enterprise resource planning system,

electronic inputs, e.g., from pressure, temperature, vibration transducers, etc., and electronic condition-based monitoring devices. This database includes all pertinent information on every piece of equipment for example, or other resources, including human resources. For example, this information may include, for a pump, a pump identifier, the process fluid being pumped, the seal installed, piping configurations, motor information, bearings, couplings, etc. For manufacturing facilities, data for any maintenance, repair and operation equipment may be captured. Information over time about the equipment condition, LCC cost, failures and deficiencies may be tracked in this database as well. For example, for human resources, the skill and knowledge level of each employee may be stored over time.

For example, as shown in Figs. 11A-11B, for a human resource, a skill level of an employee for performing different tasks may be tracked as indicated at 1100, and the workforce average skill level 1102 may be tracked. As shown in Figs. 12A-12G, information for operating resources, such as each resource seal, may include various specifications of the resource. For a seal, such information may include general design information 1200, repair and rebuilding procedures 1202, materials of a construction 1204, and other information about the seal. An example for a manufacturing resource is shown in Fig. 13. In this example various system recommendations 1304 for using a specific process fluid 1302 are stored. An example enterprise resource database may include, for example, an equipment database such as described in the ESP application.

An enterprise performance database P stores various information about an enterprise, such as purchasing information, identities of outside contractors, vendors, equipment, process stream changes, accuracy of information, analysis of lifetime cost, meantime between failure, equipment downtime, etc. This database may be initially populated through checklists, data entry, accessing an enterprise resource planning system, and other sources of this information. An example of information that may be included in the plant performance database, for example with respect to mechanical seals and pumps, is shown in Figs. 14A-B. Such data may include the mean time between failure for seals in years 1400, the number of days per year 1402 and hours per day 1404 that a plant operates, repair information 1408, electricity usage 1406, etc. Information may be retained as average values or as granular metrics. An example enterprise performance database may include, for example, a plant performance database as described in the ESP application.

Having now described various databases for the resource management system, various components, and their operation, of the resource management system will now be

described in connection with Figs. 15, 16A-16E and 17. These flowcharts illustrate activities involved for analyzing, buying, using, operating and selling human, operating and manufacturing resources. In general, the databases described above provide the information about the resources, their deficiencies, associated corrective actions, costs, suppliers, pricing, etc. Because the database stores this information with respect to a best in class or other solution, improved solutions are readily identified through the database. The following flowcharts describe how the information in the databases is linked together to allow a user to arrive at a solution given the specification of resources and goals and constraints in the enterprise.

Corporate, management, or individual goals and objectives are defined as indicated at 3000. In general, a user may enter in goals and objectives to simulate situations as indicated at 3002 or a user may define actual goals and objectives, or this information may be gathered from previously stored goals and objectives as indicated at 3004. Any entered information is stored in user database L as indicated at 3006. A typical goal may be lowest cost, lowest cost for a specified period of time, safety, environmental concerns, or best in class solution. The impact of resources on each other may be defined in terms of their impact on the ability to achieve the stated goal. It is assumed in most of the examples herein that the goal is to provide the lowest lifetime cost for each resource, depending on a specified time frame. For example, there may be a difference in a buying decision for a mechanical seal for a plant based on the expected time of operation for the plant.

More particularly, the system receives inputs from a user, according to goals and objectives defined by management of an enterprise, or which may be defined in an automated fashion. The goals or objectives may be dynamic, i.e., may change from hour to hour or day to day for any resource or combination of resources. For example, a goal may be to have equipment run for 30 days if a plant owner is selling a company or the goal may be to have equipment run for 910 days with the lowest cost to the enterprise. As another example, when using human resources the goal may be to redeploy the lowest skill level employees to the jobs for which they are suited to arrive at optimum human resource efficiency. The inputs received are sent to a resource attributes and characteristics identifier 3008.

The resource attributes and characteristics identifier 3008 allows a user to input and store the attributes and characteristics of human, operating and manufacturing resources. This information may be obtained, for example from an enterprise resource planning system,

etc., as indicated at 3010. Data from the resource characteristic database N and the enterprise resource database O also may be used, as indicated at 3012.

For example, the resource attributes and characteristics identifier 3008 may include a product decoder and standard data converter to transform part numbers into specific information about a product. A resource rating system allows for input of the skill level for each human resource and a skill level required for each product. A generic attribute and characteristic identifier allows for input of general information such as grades of material that are available for a product.

Finally, an actual characteristic and attribute identifier provides a checklist to a user to allow for input of information about what the operator measures, sees, smells, tastes, hears or touches about, or what is mechanically sensed, e.g., using a transducer, from each resource subject to the resource management system in the enterprise. This information may be historical, to allow resource conditions, changes and trends to be followed. Thus, this information specifies the actual characteristic of the resource, not its specified characteristic. For each of a plurality of human resources in an enterprise, a skill level of the human resource may be stored, over time, for example. Skill levels may change in human resources through training, equipment condition changes over use, and manufacturing resources changes that are consumed. These changes may be recorded over time.

When the resource is equipment, the actual conditions of equipment could, for example, be entered using a hand held computer by an individual in the field, or may be entered automatically through measurement equipment, such as a scanning device for measure dimensions. Conditions also may be detected using equipment or may be detected by using human operators.

The data received and generated by the identifier 3008, as indicated at 3014, are stored in the user database L, enterprise resource database O and enterprise performance database P, as appropriate, as indicated at 3016.

More particularly, the resource attributes and characteristics identifier receives a request for a purchase, analysis or simulation for one or more resources with the associated corporate goals and objectives defined. It first decodes any nonstandard information into a standard format using the data converter. Then it identifies the human resource skill level available at the plant, which may be identified by plant personnel, such as a training department or human resources department, etc. It identifies the human resource requirement for each resource, such as the skill required for installation of a seal. Such information may

be supplied by product manufacturers or those knowledgeable in the field. The resource attributes and characteristics identifier then identifies all resources which impact or are impacted by the resource in question. The characteristics are grids which vary by product or service or resource whose architecture is a universal standard by product, by industry, etc.

- 5 This information is typically supplied by those knowledgeable in the field to populate the database with identification of attributes and/or characteristics of all resources of interest.

With information about the resources in the database, a resource characteristics interaction identifier 3018 may be used to specify the impact of one resource on another resource, to help identify and define deficiencies in predictions, decisions and actions. For example, the seal specifier and compatibility analyzer from the ESP application, indicated as database Q at 3020 may be used by this identifier 3018. Information from the deficiency database M and the resource characteristic database N also may be used, as shown at 3022. This identifier enables a user to identify and make decisions about resource interactions to meet the defined goals and objectives of the enterprise. This identifier also may make
10 decisions automatically without the need for user action. Using this identifier, the most efficient combination of all of the resources may be identified. Further, decisions about buying, operating, using and selling one of these resources can be tied directly to some quantifiable difference between the ideal solution for meeting the stated goals and objectives and some other solution. For example, an increasing or decreasing mean time between
15 failure may be used to drive life cycle cost calculations.

Resource life, which may be defined, for example, in hours, days, etc., or a percentage of decreased life is identified from resource characteristics in combination from the grids and checklists that are populated by those knowledgeable in the field, and/or enterprise resource planning systems and inputs from front line workers. By combining real
20 world inputs, e.g., the resource characteristics, with these other inputs, outcomes regarding a resource may be predicted. Best in class attributes and characteristics are identified typically by those knowledgeable in the field. The resource attributes and/or characteristics are identified that are deficient alone and in combination compared to best in class attributes and/or characteristics. Individual characteristics and/or attributes of actual or proposed
25 resources, both alone and in combination with other resources, are compared to individual characteristics and/or attributes of "best-in-class" resources that are alone and in combination. From this comparison, resource life or a percentage of decreased life is identified for every characteristic/attribute.

The results 3024 from the identifier 3018 are stored in the user database L, enterprise resource database O and enterprise performance database P, as appropriate, as indicated at 3026. Specifications for resources to be purchased 3028 are stored and sent to an ideal solution definer, described in more detail below. The results from the identifier 3018 are
5 provided in turn to a product life identifier 3032 which will now be described.

The product life identifier 3032 performs a "resource life" calculation for a resource resulting from the cumulative effect of predictions, decisions and actions regarding resources by which it is impacted and which it impacts. For example, the product life identifier may compute a mean time between failure estimate for an operating resource. It uses data,
10 including predictions from the deficiency database M and the resource characteristic database N as indicated at 3040. The result is an estimated resource life 3042 which can be stored in the enterprise resource database O and enterprise performance database P as indicated at 3044, and can be used to update the deficiency database M. The resource life also may be used in an LCC analysis as indicated at 3033. It should be noted that the estimated resource
15 life 3042 is in itself a prediction of this system which may be tracked for deficiencies over time by comparing the estimated resource life to the actual resource life. For example, if a particular product has a known deficiency in combination with other resources, and the impact of this deficiency on product life is known, an estimate of the product life can be quantified. For example, as shown above in Fig. 5B, if a particular casing is inferior for
20 temperature control, then there can be a quantifiable measure of impact on the life of the product.

For example, the product life identifier may use predictions from those knowledgeable in the field for a resource alone or for resources in combination. The stored predictions may be changed by a user, and such changes may be tracked to allow for
25 accountability for the change. The prediction may indicate an estimated life or a percentage decrease in life with respect to the expected life of the resource, or with respect to a hypothetical best in class resource. Outputs from resource characteristics interaction identifier 3018 are combined (using both individual resource life or percentage of decreased
30 life) for each characteristic and/or attribute, and are totaled. Resources are assigned a predetermined life estimate along with a best in class estimate (MTBF) for each resource. This calculation is performed for each resource which impacts or is impacted by any decision.

These calculations assist in making repair/rebuild decisions. As an example, if a system had one part with an expected life of 2000 hours and another part with an expected life of 1980 hours, both parts might be replaced at 1980 hours. Such decisions generally are not made scientifically. The expected life might be determined based on laboratory conditions and not real world conditions. The laboratory conditions do not take into account the interactions of other actual resources in the enterprise. The information stored that identifies deficiencies by comparing actual conditions to ideal conditions is used to predict more accurately the expected life of a resource in actual conditions in the enterprise, enabling better decision making about rebuilding, repair and maintenance scheduling. Such decisions may otherwise be deficient by replacing parts earlier than required or by waiting too long and having a failure occur.

An efficiency analyzer 3030 uses efficiency data from the deficiency database M and the resource characteristic database N, as indicated at 3032, to analyze the impact of deficiencies in decisions about various resources for the resources which are being analyzed. It also may compare an enterprise with other enterprises. The efficiency results are returned at 3034 and may be stored in the user database L, enterprise resource database O and enterprise performance database P and may update the deficiency database M, as indicated at 3036. The efficiency results also may be used to re-evaluate goals and objectives or to make later decisions as indicated at 3038. The efficiency analyzer thus enables an enterprise to determine how efficient it is with respect to an existing definition of the best in class and enables a quantification of that difference. These deficiencies are not only physical conditions but also may include predictions, decisions and actions, such as workmanship, regarding any resource. Results also may go to the accountability analyzer as indicated at 3037.

The efficiency analyzer 3030 receives the outputs from the product life identifier and compares the estimated life of the resource with the goals and objectives of the organization. In particular, for each deficiency of each resource, a cost impact of the deficiency may be stored. This cost impact and the estimated life of the resource are compared to the stated goals and objectives. If these are not compatible, e.g., goal of 200 days with no downtime and the estimated life is 100 days, a deficiency is noted. For example, if a seal being used from the storeroom is analyzed and it does not meet the goals and objectives of the enterprise then a deficiency is identified, exposed, and stored for later use. Thus, deficient decisions may be identified when they do not meet corporate goals and objectives. Given a best in

class definition of resources to achieve present goals and objectives, and current data about the current resources, a measure of the efficiency of the current resources may be obtained. A deficiency exists wherever the combination of resources is non optimal given the stated goals and objectives.

5 The deficiencies and change in resource life suggest a failure mode determined by a failure mode predictor 3046. This failure mode predictor may use data from the deficiency database M as indicated as 3048 to present pictorial graphics of anticipated failures, or engineering dimensional specifications etc., as to the appearance and dimensions of the failure mode to enable validation by a front line worker. The predicted mode of failure then
10 may be stored as indicated at 3047 and 3048. This data may be used by a failure analyzer after a failure occurs, as will be described in more detail below.

 The failure mode predictor assigns the graphic or dimensional mode of failure to be expected given a deficiency in a resource. The expected mode of failure may be stored as a prediction of one knowledgeable in the field associated with the deficiency of the resource.
15 Results are fed to deficiency identifier/analyzer and are stored for use by the failure analyzer. Thus, for a pump if the seal o-ring is the first item that will fail on a pump, this expected failure mode is identified by the failure mode predictor from the database.

 With this information, predictions (made by those knowledgeable in the field) are combined with information about actual conditions (such as provided by front line workers
20 using checklists and or through machine inputs) to predict "equipment life" (MTBF) and provide failure modes and graphics associated with the likely mode of failure at the end of the equipment life. For example, if the expected failure date for a seal (typically the first mode of failure in a pump) was 196 days, then the expected time frame along with the failure mode appearance graphics are stored for that combination of pump and seal and operating
25 conditions. If the actual conditions specify that pump, seal and operating conditions, this estimate of equipment lifetime is retrieved from the database and the expected failure mode may be shown to a user.

 If actual failure dates do not coincide with predicted failure dates the results are "deficiencies". For example, if the actual life is 310 days and the product life identifier
30 suggests that the expected life was 196 days, then there is a deficiency, for example, in the prediction itself or in a checklist may have been filled in incorrectly by frontline workers who, for example, may have measured something incorrectly or recorded a worse equipment condition than what actually existed.

Because the expected failure mode and time frames are stored in association with a specified combination of resources, if the specified resources change, then the predictions automatically change for the enterprise as well. For example, if a pump is pumping acetone today and is changed to be pumping oil tomorrow the failure graphic associated with pumping acetone may be a "worn seal face" but for pumping oil may be a "swollen o-ring."

This system thus enables the failure mode and failure date to be retrieved for a specified combination of resources, and deficiencies to be identified if the expected date is not reached before a failure. If a failure does occur, or if the failure mode and data represent the outcome of a deficiency, then corrective actions may be provided to remedy the deficiencies, as described in more detail below. The failure graphics identified produce a short list of all possible predictions, decisions and actions which may have produced the deficiency along with checklists to quickly identify the deficiency. These checklists may for example instruct a user to measure face wear. Such actual measurements may be used to improve predictions.

The product life identifier and failure mode predictor may be considered as one part of a system because of the interrelationship between the expected failure mode and the expected life of a resource. An example determination of a product life and failure mode will now be described in connection with Figs. 18a-b. For example, combinations of technology, such as a component as indicated at 1800, a subassembly as indicated at 1802 and assembly as indicated at 1804 in combination with real world conditions as indicated at 1806. All have an impact on the estimated life, due to deficiencies in each of the component's subassembly's assemblies and actual use. For example, the estimated life of a seal may be five years due to the selected material for the face and the selected material for the O-ring, as indicated at 1808 and 1810. Thus, the estimated life of a subassembly is limited by the estimated life of the seal as indicated at 1812. This information could be obtained through controlled laboratory tests. The estimated life of the assembly in the pump is limited to three years as indicated at 1814, due to the use of inferior goods. In actual use then this resource is then combined with other resources in an enterprise. For example, changes in the operating conditions of the subassembly may cause various failures. For example, the installation of the pump with a low level skill in the work force could significantly limit the lifetime of the pump. Thus, in this example, the combination of information about the resources and their expected lifetimes results in a lifetime of 195 days due to deficiencies in the skill level for installation, the bearing housing, and the grade of material for the face and the O-ring in the seal.

A deficiency identifier and analyzer 3050 in general identifies deficiencies in the predictions, decisions and actions made in connection with the resources. This identifier may be utilized at any time using the data from the various databases or after a failure. For example, a deficiency in a prediction may be quantified by a comparison of an increased or
5 decreased mean time between failure, or a life cycle cost, between the prediction and the actual outcome. Similar defects in actions and decisions may be identified. For example, each decision made by this system may be stored and compared to an outcome. The identified deficiencies may be applied to an LCC analysis, or other financial analysis, as described below, to measure the financial impact of the deficiencies and predictions,
10 decisions and actions as indicated at 3052. The identified deficiencies, also as indicated at 3054 are stored in the enterprise resource database O and enterprise performance database P, and may be used to update the deficiency database M as indicated at 3056.

More particularly, the deficiency identifier 3050 may use the results of the product life identifier, which is the number of days of life to be expected (such as may be defined by
15 an MTBF calculation), and the results of the failure mode predictor, which is an indication of the actual graphical depiction or dimensional value or other perceivable or measurable characteristic of an item, e.g. a failure mode of a seal, that should appear when the item fails. When a failure occurs, the number of days from product life identifier and the graphic or dimension from failure mode predictor are compared to the actual failure date and appearance
20 or dimension from the failure analyzer, which may be identified by front line workers, for example by using graphics and checklists. If the failure occurs on the date predicted and the failure mode matches then there are no deficiencies in predictions, decisions and actions because the actual outcome equals the results expected. If the graphics or dimensions or other indicators of the failure mode and dates do not match, the results from the failure
25 analyzer, which may be used by front line workers using pictorial graphics, indicate the actual cause of failure. This analysis indicates that there was at least one deficiency in either predictions, decisions, or actions with respect to this item. These findings are stored to help fine tune future predictions, decisions and actions. The deficiency analyzer also may store the difference in time to enable measurement of the financial impact the deficiency has on the
30 operation.

Using the identified deficiencies, a corrective actions specifier 3058 specifies corrective actions for these deficiencies, as obtained from the deficiency database M as indicated at 3060. The corrective actions are specified as indicated at 3062 and stored in the

enterprise resource database O and the enterprise performance database P 3064, as appropriate, in addition to being communicated to individual or systems to perform the corrected actions. In particular, corrective actions may be specified by those knowledgeable in the field and stored in the database for each deficiency. Given each deficiency that is
5 identified by the deficiency identifier, the corrective actions for each deficiency are retrieved from the database and may be provided to a worker for execution, or may be identified to management for a decision to be made.

With the deficiencies identified, and corrective actions specified, or with deficiencies identified based on goals and objectives as indicated at 3037, an accountability assignor 3066
10 identifies human resources or other individuals or entities involved in the prediction, decision or action which resulted in the deficiency, both internally and externally to the enterprise. For example, an expert may be identified as accountable for an erroneous prediction. Decision makers may be identified as accountable for an erroneous decision. Other workers may be identified as accountable for errors in actions. Manufacturers may be identified as
15 accountable for deficiencies in products. This assignment of accountability may be made by tracking, for each decision made in the system, an identity of a user making the prediction, decision or action stored in the database, and the identity of the source of a resource. The accountability for a failure or a deficiency may be assigned as indicated at 3068 and stored in the enterprise resource database O and the enterprise performance database P, as indicated at
20 3070.

An LCC or other financial cost analysis also may be performed as indicated at 3072. Many methods are known for computing a life cycle cost analysis and any suitable methodology may be used. The accuracy of the cost analysis depends on the accuracy of the cost model for the resource and the accuracy of the data used in the cost model. The cost
25 model of the resource is determined in part by the interaction of the resource with other resources, as indicated above in the resource characteristic interaction identifier. The cost information may be obtained from user database L or from an enterprise resource planning system as indicated at 3074 or from the product life estimator as indicated at 3033. The estimated life cycle cost for a new resource or life cycle cost associated with a deficiency
30 may be calculated and stored as indicated 3076 and 3078. The LCC analysis also can be used to determine differences between predicted and actual performance. The results from the accountability assignor may be used to assign the cost of deficiencies to the responsible party.

For purchasing decisions or simulation of resources, the LCC cost information may be compared to the goals and objectives to determine if a proposed solution for a resource is acceptable. If the solution is acceptable as indicated at 3073, the solution may be purchased. If the solution is not acceptable, further solutions may be identified and analyzed using the system, until a solution is found that is acceptable in view of the goals and objectives, or the goals and objectives may change.

An ideal solution definer 3080 may be used to specify an ideal solution using the cost information, goals and constraints from user database L as indicated at 3082, information, such as the resource characteristics interaction information which has taken into account the goals and objectives, from the other databases O, P, M and N, indicated at 3084 and specifications 3086 for resources to be purchased, from which an ideal solution is defined, as indicated at 3088. This ideal solution may be a specified product or resource 3090 to be purchased. Information about this specified product may be stored in the user database L, enterprise resource database O, deficiency database M and the enterprise performance database P as indicated at 3092 and 3094. Given the information in the database and the goals and objectives of the enterprise, the ideal combination of resources that means the goals and objectives can be readily selected from the database.

In one embodiment, shown in FIG. 17, the ideal solution allows an enterprise or individual to create specifications, as indicated at 3200 which would enable requests for quotes or other requests or searching to be performed to identify what is available from current suppliers or standard products as indicated at 3202. If the solution can be obtained, as indicated at 3204, at an appropriate availability and price, as indicated at 3206, the product may be available as indicated at 3208 and an order may be placed in step 3210. Otherwise the product is not available as indicated at 3212 and an individual or enterprise settles for something else as indicated at 3214 and specify a new solution with a new constraint that the desired product is unavailable.

Alternatively, significant information about the market and pricing may be stored to enable an automated buying or purchasing system (a pricing analyzer) 3096 to determine, as indicated at 3098, an estimated pricing and supplier for the specified product, using the information stored in all of the databases and indicated at 3100. The decision regarding pricing and supplier may be stored in the databases indicated at 3102. This module may use stored information about manufacturer and resaler margins and distribution channels to determine the appropriate supplier and purchase price. This module may be pre-populated

with such information from analysts or others knowledgeable in the field and may be continuously updated.

The automated buying and purchasing system 3096 may have a corresponding automated sales system 3104 at the seller of the corresponding resource. The seller may have
5 access to the buyer's user database L, enterprise resource database O and enterprise performance database P to retrieve and store information as indicated at 3106. For example, the automated sales system 3104 may analyze account potential and pricing for the solutions being manufactured as indicated at 3108. The system may determine a price depending on the amount of knowledge available from the buyer or the remainder of the market. For
10 example, by analyzing information about the cost structure of a purchaser of a resource and competitive pricing information (such as from competing manufacturers, their resellers, and their pricing and discount policies for different user sizes/industries) pricing, product, promotion and distribution policies may be determined automatically in real time.

The seller also may have its own corresponding system for managing their own
15 resources. This resource constraint analyzer 3110 is used to generate a solution as indicated at 3112. The resource constraint analyzer compares the specification and pricing information to the seller's constraints to determine what solution can be provided. What a supplier can supply depends in part on the deficiencies of the supplier. The solution may be what the user has specified or may be different from what the user has specified. If it is the same, such
20 information may be stored in the user database L, enterprise resource database O and enterprise performance database P as indicated as 3114. If the solution is different, the actual solution may be quoted and fed back to the buyer. A buyer may receive the information and recalculate all of the information, particularly the lifetime cost, of the proposed solution as indicated at 3116.

25 A seller also may create engineered installation and operating instructions as indicated at 3118 and produced custom engineering reports as indicated at 3120. This information may be stored in the user database L, enterprise resource database O and enterprise performance database P, as indicated at 3122, and combined to create the engineering installation and operating instructions based on the exact and complete specifications of the solution. In
30 particular, the database may include a specific installation and operating instruction variant for each variant of a resource, such as an engineered product. Given the specification for the resource, such as an engineered product, the corresponding installation and operating instructions are retrieved and combined. The information used to complete these instructions

may be created by those knowledgeable in the field then stored in the databases. A proposal generator in the ESP application is an example of such a module. A mass customization system then may be used to generate a real time proposal and customized product as indicated at 3124. An example of such a mass customization system is in the ESP application. Such a system receives an indication of resources with which an engineered product is to interact, determines compatibility of the product with the specified resources to specify the product, and manufactures the product so specified. The product then is specified, designed, manufactured and sent to the buyer as indicated at 3126 and information about it is stored in the databases as indicated at 3128. The buyer then has purchased and received the actual solution as indicated at 3130.

The engineered installation and operating instructions 3118, mass customization 3124 may be generated using a database 3130 as described in more detail in the ESP application, which is an example of an electronic sales system of Fig. 1.

A global database of information 3131 may be created by aggregating information from buyers and sellers across a market for all of the user databases L, deficiency databases M, resource characteristic databases N, enterprise resource databases O and enterprise performance databases P. Each step in the process shown in FIGS. 31A-31E may store information in such a global service.

The foregoing process may be performed to specify resources to purchase or to specify resources to repair or to replace in an enterprise. The deficiency analyzer may indicate known and existing deficiencies in the currently used resources in the enterprise immediately upon population of the database. Other deficiencies may come to a user's attention when a failure occurs.

When a failure occurs, resources may need to be replaced or in some cases repaired. Referring to FIG. 16C, when a failure occurs, as shown at 3140, it is determined if the date and mode of failure corresponds to the predicted date and mode, pulled from the databases 3147, as indicated at 3142. If yes, the results are stored in the enterprise resource database O, enterprise performance database P and deficiency database M as indicated at 3144. If no, the user may perform failure analysis using graphics and checklists to confirm conditions, dimensions, etc. as indicated at 3146. A system for seals for performing such analysis is described in the Plant Reliability application. A failure analyzer as described in that application for seals, as indicated at 3148, determines an actual cause of failures indicated at 3150. This failure data is stored in the enterprise resource database O, enterprise

performance database P and deficiency database M as indicated at 3152 and is provided to the deficiency analyzer 3050. The failure analyzer may be used to identify failures not only in operating resources such as seals but in any prediction, decision or action involving the buying, using, operating and selling of any human, operating and manufacturing resource.

- 5 The failure analyzer 3148 uses the results from the failure mode predictor. It also may store graphical/dimensional depictions or other information about resources to illustrate all failure modes associated with the resource. For example, every product has its own set of failure analyzer graphics. The failure graphics are used to display what the failure should look like at a given day so that if the actual and expected failures don't match, front line workers can
- 10 identify the actual condition. Outputs are sent to the deficiency identifier.

- With a system such as described above, various considerations may be made to improve the selection of a resource. For example, when hiring an human resource, the impact on all other resources and how the human resource is impacted by all other resources may be analyzed. If the individual's skill level is too low, the system identifies the percentage of
- 15 decreased life to be expected for each resource.

- As another example, when purchasing an operating resource, the impact on all other resources and how the operating resource is impacted by all other resources may be analyzed. For example, if a seal requires a high level of skill to install and the available human resources do not have the requisite skill level, the system identifies the percentage of
- 20 decreased life to be expected for the operating resource. Thus, available skill level of a purchaser may be part of a request for quote to a supplier. Other deficiencies in resources at the purchaser also may be part of the request for quote.

- As another example, when purchasing a manufacturing resource, the impact on all other resources and how the manufacturing resource is impacted by all other resources may
- 25 be analyzed. For example, if an individual considers purchasing a lower grade material, then the impact of that lower grade material on other resources, such as equipment, is identified and the system identifies the percentage of decreased life for the equipment.

- Thus, requests for quotes to suppliers also may specify the various conditions, i.e., the interactions with other resources, that are to be optimized by the resource provided by the
- 30 supplier. To the extent that the supplier has access to the purchasers cost information, or has its own cost information based on the interactions of various resources, a better quote can be provided. Such information can be stored and aggregated from several suppliers and purchasers for a resource to enable better buying and selling decisions.

Computer systems for implementing the system described above as computer programs typically include main units connected to both output devices which display information to users and input devices which receive input from users. The main units generally include processors connected to memory systems via interconnection mechanisms.

5 The input devices and output devices also are connected to the processors and memory systems via the interconnection mechanisms.

One or more output devices may be connected to the computers. Example output devices include a cathode ray tube (CRT) display, liquid crystal displays (LCD) and other video output devices, printers, communication devices such as a modem, storage devices
10 such as a disk or tape, and audio output. One or more input devices may be connected to the computer system. Example input devices include a keyboard, keypad, track ball, mouse, pen and tablet, communication device, and data input devices such as audio and video capture devices. The invention is not limited to the particular input or output devices used in combination with the computer system or to those described herein.

15 Each one of the computers may be a general purpose computer system which is programmable using a computer programming language, such as C++, Java, or other language, such as a scripting language or assembly language. The computer system may also include specially programmed, special purpose hardware, or an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC). In a general purpose computer system, the processor is typically a
20 commercially available processor, of which the series x86, Celeron, and Pentium processors, available from Intel, and similar devices from AMD and Cyrix, the 680X0 series microprocessors available from Motorola, the PowerPC microprocessor from IBM, the Alpha-series processors from Digital Equipment Corporation, and the MIPS microprocessor from MIPS Technologies are examples. Many other processors are available. Such a
25 microprocessor executes a program called an operating system, of which windows family of operating systems including Windows NT, and Windows 95 or 98, Linux, UNIX, IRIX, DOS, VMS MAC OS and OS8 are examples, which controls the execution of other computer programs and provides scheduling, debugging, input/output control, accounting, compilation, storage assignment, data management and memory management, and communication control
30 and related services. The processor and operating system define a computer platform for which application programs in high-level programming languages are written.

A memory system typically includes a computer readable and writeable nonvolatile recording medium, of which a magnetic disk, a flash memory CD-ROM (rewriteable), and

tape are examples. The magnetic disk may be removable, known as a floppy disk, or permanent, known as a hard drive. A magnetic disk has a number of tracks in which signals are stored, typically in binary form, i.e., a form interpreted as a sequence of one and zeros. Such signals may define an application program to be executed by the microprocessor, or
5 information stored on the disk to be processed by the application program. Typically, in operation, the processor causes data to be read from the nonvolatile recording medium into an integrated circuit memory element, which is typically a volatile, random access memory such as a dynamic random access memory (DRAM) or static memory (SRAM). The integrated circuit memory element allows for faster access to the information by the processor than does
10 the disk. The processor generally manipulates the data within the integrated circuit memory and then copies the data to the disk after processing is completed. A variety of mechanisms are known for managing data movement between the disk and the integrated circuit memory element, and the invention is not limited thereto. The invention is not limited to a particular memory system.

15 Various computer platforms, processors, or high-level programming languages can be used for implementation. Additionally, the computer system may be a multiprocessor computer system or may include multiple computers connected over a computer network. Each computer program module described here may be a separate module of a computer program, or may be a separate computer program. Such modules may be operable on
20 separate computers. Data may be stored in a memory system or transmitted between computer systems. The plurality of computers or devices may be interconnected by a communication network, such as a public switched telephone network or other circuit switched network, or a packet switched network such as an Internet protocol (IP) network. The network may be wired or wireless, and may be public or private.

25 Such a system may be implemented in software or hardware or firmware, or any combination thereof. The various elements of the system, either individually or in combination may be implemented as a computer program product tangibly embodied in a machine-readable storage device for execution by a computer processor. Various steps of the process may be performed by a computer processor executing a program tangibly embodied
30 on a computer-readable medium to perform functions by operating on input and generating output. Computer programming languages suitable for implementing such a system include procedural programming languages, object-oriented programming languages, and combinations of the two.

The invention is not limited to a particular computer platform, particular processor, or particular high-level programming language. Additionally, the computer system may be a multiprocessor computer system or may include multiple computers connected over a computer network.

5 Various databases may be any kind of database, including a relational database, object-oriented database, unstructured database or other database. Example relational databases include Oracle 8i from Oracle Corporation of Redwood City, California, Informix Dynamic Server from Informix Software, Inc. of Menlo Park, California, DB2 from International Business Machines of Yorktown Heights, New York, and Access from
10 Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington. An example object-oriented database is ObjectStore from Object Design of Burlington, Massachusetts. An example unstructured database is Notes from the Lotus Corporation, of Cambridge, Massachusetts. A database also may be constructed using a flat file system, for example by using files with character-delimited fields, such as in early versions of dBASE, now known as Visual dBASE from
15 Inprise Corp. of Scotts Valley, California, formerly Borland International Corp. . In one embodiment, the system may be implemented using script files developed using a File Maker Pro software application running on a Windows98 operating system. The databases are implemented using database script files and the operations of the various modules also are implemented as scripts for accessing those data files.

20 Having now described a few embodiments, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the foregoing is merely illustrative and not limiting, having been presented by way of example only. Numerous modifications and other embodiments are within the scope of one of ordinary skill in the art and are contemplated as falling within the scope of the invention.

25 It is to be understood that while the invention has been described in conjunction with the detailed description thereof, the foregoing description is intended to illustrate and not limit the scope of the invention, which is defined, by the scope of the appended claims. Other aspects, advantages, and modifications are within the scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

I claim as deserving the protection of Letters Patent:

1. A resource management system **characterized in that** system comprises:

a resource characteristic database; and

5 in the resource characteristic database, for each of a plurality of resources, means for storing a skill level required for the resource.

2. The resource management system of claim 1 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

10 an enterprise resource database; and

in the enterprise resource database, for each of a plurality of human resources in the enterprise, means for storing a skill level of the human resource.

3. The resource management system of claim 2 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

15 in the resource characteristic database, for each of the plurality of resources, means for storing information about attributes of the resource.

4. The resource management system of claim 1 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

20 in the resource characteristic database, for each of the plurality of resources, means for storing information about attributes of the resource.

5. The resource management system of claim 2 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

25 in the enterprise resource database, for each of a plurality of resources in the enterprise, means for storing actual characteristics of the resource.

6. The resource management system of claim 5 **characterized in that** the actual characteristics are defined as one of machine inputs or inputs defining what an operators sees, hears, smells, tastes or touches.

7. The resource management system of claim 1 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

in the enterprise resource database, for each of a plurality of resources in the enterprise, means for storing actual characteristics of the resource.

5

8. The resource management system of claim 7 **characterized in that** the actual characteristics are defined as one of machine inputs or inputs defining what an operators sees, hears, smells, tastes or touches.

10 9. The resource management system of claim 4 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

in the enterprise resource database, for each of a plurality of resources in the enterprise, means for storing actual characteristics of the resource.

15 10. The resource management system of claim 9 **characterized in that** the actual characteristics are defined as one of machine inputs or inputs defining what an operators sees, hears, smells, tastes or touches.

11. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

20 an enterprise resource database; and

in the enterprise resource database, for each of a plurality of resources in the enterprise, means for storing actual characteristics of the resource, wherein the actual characteristics are defined as one of machine inputs or inputs defining what an operators sees, hears, smells, tastes or touches.

25

12. The resource management system of claim 11 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

a resource characteristic database; and

30 in the resource characteristic database, for each of the plurality of resources, means for storing information about attributes of the resource.

13. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

an enterprise resource database for storing information about resources being used in an enterprise;

a deficiency database for storing information regarding interactions among resources and known deficiencies related to the resources and the interactions among the resources; and

5 means for identifying from the database deficiencies related to the resources being used in the enterprise.

14. The resource management system of claim 13 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

10 means for receiving an indication of estimated life of a resource being used in an enterprise;

wherein the deficiency database includes, for each deficiency of each resource, a cost impact of the deficiency;

15 an efficiency analyzer that uses the cost impact of the deficiency from the deficiency database and estimated life of the resource and determines whether the use of the resource meets defined constraints.

15. The resource management system of claim 14 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

20 an enterprise performance database including information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities; and

an accountability assignor that, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that resulted in the deficiency.

25

16. The resource management system of claim 14 **characterized in that** the deficiency database includes for each resource a specification of a life associated with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource, and wherein the improvement further comprises:

30 a resource life estimator that, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a life for the resource associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database.

17. The resource management system of claim 16 **characterized in that** the deficiency database includes for each resource a specification of one or more failure modes associated

with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource, and wherein the improvement further comprises:

a failure mode predictor that, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a failure mode associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database.

5

18. The resource management system of claim 17 **characterized in that** the deficiency database includes, for each resource, display information about a failure mode corresponding to the deficiency, and wherein the improvement further comprises:

10 means for prompting a user for selection, using the display information from the deficiency database, to identify a failure mode of the resource in response to a failure of the resource.

19. The resource management system of claim 18 **characterized in that** the deficiency database that stores an indication of a failure mode corresponding to a deficiency for each resource, and wherein the improvement further comprises:

15 means for receiving an indication of a failure mode of a resource; and
a deficiency identifier that identifies one or more deficiencies in the resource related to the indicated failure mode using the deficiency database.

20

20. The resource management system of claim 19 **characterized in that** the deficiency database stores information about one or more corrective actions associated with each deficiency of each resource and further comprising:

25 means for receiving an indication of a deficiency of a resource; and
means for accessing the corrective action associated with the deficiency of the resource from the deficiency database.

21. The resource management system of claim 20 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

30 an enterprise performance database including information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities; and

an accountability assignor that, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that resulted in the deficiency.

- 5 22. The resource management system of claim 21 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

 a life cycle cost analyzer for computing a life cycle cost corresponding to the deficiency identified.

- 10 23. The resource management system of claim 22 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

 a database for storing competitive pricing information about the resource and for storing information regarding cost structure of a purchaser of a resource; and

- means for identifying from the database a price for the resource using the stored cost
15 information and stored pricing information.

24. The resource management system of claim 22 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

- a pricing analyzer having an input for receiving information describing a desired
20 resource, and for accessing the enterprise resource database to retrieve information about suppliers for the resource, and having an output for providing an indication of a price and supplier for the resource.

- 25 25. The resource management system of claim 14 **characterized in that** the deficiency database that stores an indication of a failure mode corresponding to a deficiency for each resource, wherein the improvement further comprises:

 means for receiving an indication of a failure mode of a resource; and

 a deficiency identifier that identifies one or more deficiencies in the resource related to the indicated failure mode using the deficiency database.

30

26. The resource management system of claim 25 **characterized in that** the deficiency database stores information about one or more corrective actions associated with each deficiency of each resource, wherein the improvement further comprises:

means for receiving an indication of a deficiency of a resource; and

means for accessing the corrective action associated with the deficiency of the resource from the deficiency database.

5 27. The resource management system of claim 26 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

an enterprise performance database including information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities; and

10 an accountability assignor that, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that resulted in the deficiency.

28. The resource management system of claim 17 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

15 a life cycle cost analyzer for computing a life cycle cost corresponding to the deficiency identified.

29. The resource management system of claim 13 **characterized in that** the deficiency database stores an indication of a failure mode corresponding to a deficiency for each resource, wherein the improvement further comprises:

means for receiving an indication of a failure mode of a resource; and

a deficiency identifier that identifies one or more deficiencies in the resource related to the indicated failure mode using the deficiency database.

25 30. The resource management system of any of claims 13 through 29 **characterized in that** the system further comprises generating results according to specified constraints of an enterprise.

31. The resource management system of any of claims 13 through 29 **characterized in that**
30 the system further comprises automatically changing results according to changes in the enterprise resources.

32. The resource management system of claim 30 **characterized in that** the system further comprises automatically changing results according to changes in the specified constraints of the enterprise.

- 5 33. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises;
a deficiency database for storing information regarding interactions among resources
and known deficiencies related to the interactions;
means for receiving a specification of resources being used in an enterprise;
means for identifying from the database deficiencies related to the specified resources.

10

34. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:
means for receiving an indication of a failure mode of a resource;
a deficiency database that stores an indication of a deficiency associated with a failure
mode for each of a plurality of resources; and
15 a deficiency identifier that identifies one or more deficiencies in the resource related
to the indicated failure mode using the deficiency database.

35. The resource management system of claim 34 **characterized in that** the failure mode is
an estimated failure mode.

20

36. The resource management system of claim 34 **characterized in that** the failure mode is
an actual cause of failure.

25

37. The resource management system of claim 34 **characterized in that** the resource is an
operating resource.

38. The resource management system of claim 34 **characterized in that** the resource is a
human resource.

30

39. The resource management system of claim 34 **characterized in that** the resource is a
manufacturing resource.

40. The resource management system of claim 34 **characterized in that** the deficiency database includes for each resource a specification of a life associated with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource, wherein the improvement further comprises:

5 a resource life estimator that, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a life for the resource associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database.

41. The resource management system of claim 40 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

10 a life cycle cost analyzer for computing a life cycle cost corresponding to the deficiency identified.

42. The resource management system of claim 34 **characterized in that** the deficiency database includes, for each deficiency of each resource, a cost impact of the deficiency, wherein the improvement further comprises:

15 means for receiving an indication of estimated life of a resource being used in an enterprise;

an efficiency analyzer that uses the cost impact of the deficiency from the deficiency database and estimated life of the resource and determines whether the use of the resource meets defined constraints.

20

43. The resource management system of claim 42 **characterized in that** the deficiency database includes for each of a plurality of resources a specification of a life associated with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource; and

25 a resource life estimator that, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a life for the resource associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database.

44. The resource management system of claim 43 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

30 a life cycle cost analyzer for computing a life cycle cost corresponding to the deficiency identified.

45. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

a deficiency database for storing information about a plurality of resources, including information about one or more corrective actions associated with each deficiency of each of the plurality of resources;

means for receiving an indication of a deficiency of a resource; and

5 means for accessing the corrective action associated with the deficiency of the resource from the deficiency database.

46. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

10 an enterprise performance database including information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities; and

an accountability assignor that, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that resulted in the deficiency.

15 47. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

means for receiving an indication of estimated life of a resource being used in an enterprise;

a deficiency database including, for each deficiency of each resource, a cost impact of the deficiency;

20 an efficiency analyzer that uses the cost impact of the deficiency from the deficiency database and estimated life of the resource and determines whether the use of the resource meets defined constraints.

25 48. The resource management system of claim 47 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

an enterprise performance database including information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities; and

30 an accountability assignor that, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that resulted in the deficiency.

49. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

a deficiency database including for each of a plurality of resources a specification of one or more failure modes associated with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource; and

5 a failure mode predictor that, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a failure mode associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database.

50. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

a deficiency database including for each of a plurality of resources a specification of a life associated with each of one or more deficiencies related to the resource; and

10 a resource life estimator that, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a life for the resource associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database.

51. The resource management system of claim 50 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

15 a failure mode predictor that, given an indication of a deficiency related to a resource, identifies a failure mode associated with the deficiency from the deficiency database.

52. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

20 a deficiency database including, for each of a plurality of resources, information for each resource about one or more deficiencies and corresponding display information about a failure mode corresponding to the deficiency;

means for prompting a user for selection, using the display information from the deficiency database, to identify a failure mode of the resource in response to a failure of the resource.

25

53. The resource management system of claim 52 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

a database for storing information describing a predicted life and a predicted failure mode of a resource; and

30 means for comparing an actual failure mode and actual life of a resource to the predicted life and predicted failure mode of the resource.

54. The resource management system of claim 52 **characterized in that** the deficiency database stores an indication of a deficiency associated with a failure mode for each of a plurality of resources, wherein the improvement further comprises:

means for receiving an indication of a failure mode of a resource;

5 a deficiency identifier that identifies one or more deficiencies in the resource related to the indicated failure mode using the deficiency database.

55. The resource management system of claim 54 **characterized in that** the deficiency database stores information about one or more corrective actions associated with each
10 deficiency of each resource;

means for receiving an indication of a deficiency of a resource; and

means for accessing the corrective action associated with the deficiency of the resource from the deficiency database.

15 56. The resource management system of claim 55 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

an enterprise performance database including information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities; and

20 an accountability assignor that, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or action that resulted in the deficiency.

57. The resource management system of claim 56 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

25 a life cycle cost analyzer for computing a life cycle cost corresponding to the deficiency identified.

58. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

30 an enterprise resource database storing information describing resources in an enterprise;

an input for receiving a description of goals and objectives; and

means for determining an ideal combination of resources for meeting the described goals and objectives using the enterprise resource database.

59. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

an enterprise resource database;

5 a pricing analyzer having an input for receiving information describing a desired resource, and for accessing the enterprise resource database to retrieve information about suppliers for the resource, and having an output for providing an indication of a price and supplier for the resource.

10 60. A system for providing customized engineered products **characterized in that** the system comprises:

means for receiving an indication of resources with which the engineered product is to interact;

means for specifying the engineering product to be compatible with the identified resources; and

15 means for manufacturing the engineered product as specified.

61. A system for providing specific installation and operating instructions for an engineered product **characterized in that** the system comprises:

20 a database for storing a specific installation and operating instruction variant for each variant of the engineered product;

means for receiving a specification for the engineered product; and

means for accessing the database to retrieve the specific installation and operating instruction for the specified engineered product.

25 62. The system of claim 61 **characterized in that** the database further includes a corrective action associated with a deficiency in the specification of the engineered product, and wherein the installation and operating instructions for the specified engineered product includes the corrective action.

30 63. A system for managing resources **characterized in that** the system comprises:

a database for storing information describing deficiencies of a supplier of resources;

means for receiving an indication of a desired resource; and

means for determining from the database the ability of the supplier to provide the desired resource according to the described deficiencies.

64. A system for managing sales of a resource **characterized in that** the system comprises:

5 a database for storing competitive pricing information about the resource and for storing information regarding cost structure of a purchaser of a resource; and

 means for identifying from the database a price for the resource using the stored cost information and stored pricing information.

10 65. An information service system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

 a resource characteristic database for storing information describing one or more attributes of a plurality of resources;

 an actual resource database for storing information about resources in use in one or more enterprises;

15 a performance database for storing information about performance of the resources in use;

 a deficiency database for storing information describing one or more deficiencies of the plurality of resources in the resource characteristic database;

 means for enabling multiple entities to access the databases.

20

66. The information service system of claim 65 **characterized in that** the deficiency database includes, for each resource, display information about a failure mode corresponding to the deficiency, wherein the improvement further comprises:

25 means for prompting a user from one of the multiple entities for selection, using the display information from the deficiency database, to identify a failure mode of the resource in response to a failure of the resource.

67. The information service system of claim 66 **characterized in that** the deficiency database that stores an indication of a failure mode corresponding to a deficiency for each resource, wherein the improvement further comprises:

30

 means for receiving an indication of a failure mode of a resource; and

 a deficiency identifier that identifies one or more deficiencies in the resource related to the indicated failure mode using the deficiency database.

68. The information service system of claim 67 **characterized in that** the deficiency database stores information about one or more corrective actions associated with each deficiency of each resource, wherein the improvement further comprises:

- 5 means for receiving an indication of a deficiency of a resource; and
 means for accessing the corrective action associated with the deficiency of the resource from the deficiency database.

69. The information service system of claim 68 **characterized in that** the system further
10 comprises:

 an enterprise performance database including information about entities and predictions, decisions and actions made by the entities; and

 an accountability assignor that, given an indication of a deficiency, identifies, using the enterprise performance database, one of the entities that made a prediction, decision or
15 action that resulted in the deficiency.

70. The resource management system of claim 69 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

 a life cycle cost analyzer for computing a life cycle cost corresponding to the
20 deficiency identified.

71. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

 a database for storing information describing each of a plurality of resources, and information describing deficiencies in each of the resources and deficiencies arising from
25 interactions among the plurality of resources;

 means for allowing selection of a combination of resources; and

 means for indicating deficiencies in the selected combination of resources and suggestion changes in resources to remove one or more deficiencies.

30 72. The resource management system of claim 71 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

 a compatibility analyzer coupled to the resource characteristic database, the compatibility analyzer having an input that receives the data indicative of a characteristic of a

first resource for comparison of a characteristic of a second resource, to determine a modification which, when made to one of the first resource and the second, allows the first resource to be compatible with the second resource.

- 5 73. The resource management system of claim 71 **characterized in that** the system further comprises:

 means for providing from the resource characteristic database data indicative of a characteristic of a first resource for comparison of a characteristic of a second resource, and for receiving an indication of a modification which, when made to one of the first resource
10 and the second, allows the first resource to be compatible with the second resource.

74. A human resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

 a resource characteristic database including for each resource, a required skill level for the resource;

- 15 an enterprise resource database including, for each resource, an associated human resource, and for each human resource, a skill level; and

 means for indicating deficiencies in the association of human resources with resources and associated corrective actions.

- 20 75. A purchasing system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

 a failure analyzer that presents an individual with possible causes of failure of a resource and associated corrective actions, wherein a corrective action includes a purchase of a resource; and

- means, operative in response to selection of a cause of failure, for initiating a purchase
25 transaction for the resource.

76. A process for building a resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

- creating a database including a solution defined as a combination of resources and
30 information regarding deficiencies of other resources with respect to the solution, and

 during use of the resource management system, adding information about resources being used to the database, including deficiencies of the resources with respect to the solution.

77. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

a database for storing information describing each of a plurality of resources, and
information describing deficiencies in each of the resources and deficiencies arising from
5 interactions among the plurality of resources;

means for allowing selection of a combination of resources; and

means for identifying deficiencies in predictions, decisions and/or actions related to
the selected combination of resources.

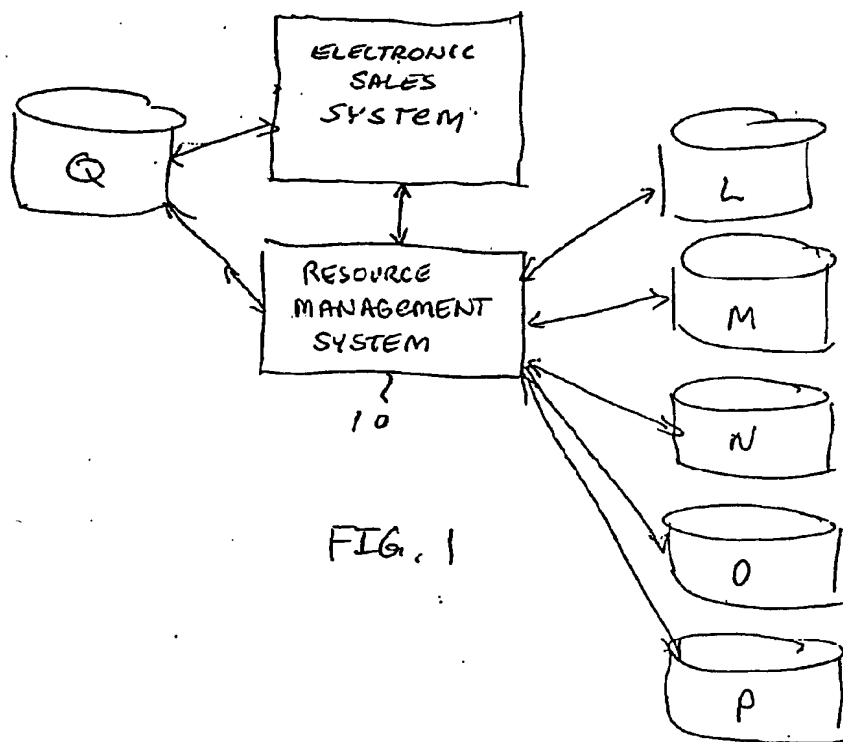
10 78. A resource management system **characterized in that** the system comprises:

a failure analyzer that presents an individual with possible causes of failure of a
resource and associated corrective actions, wherein a corrective action includes an action
related to the resource; and

means, operative in response to selection of a cause of failure, for initiating the action
15 related to the resource.

79. The resource management system of claim 78 **characterized in that** the action
comprises defining a specification of a product.

20 80. The resource management system of claim 78 **characterized in that** the action
comprises generation of engineered installation and operating instructions.



General Information	Plant Name	
	Address	
	City	
	State	
	Zip	
	Phone	
	Fax	
	Contact	
	User Size	
	Industry	
Plant Profile	# of pumps/mixers	
	# of seals per pump	
	# of sealed stuffing boxes in Plant	
	% of pumps sealed	
	% of pumps packed	
	Average seal list price	
	% of seals purchased new annually	
	% of seals purchased as factory repair or rebuild kits annually	
	Factory repair/rebuild price as a % of new seal price	
	% of population requiring solid shaft seals	
	Avg. shaft seal size (in inches) in plant	
	# of Pumps, Mixers, Flushed With Seal Water into packed boxes	
Cost Information	# of Pumps, Mixers, Stuffing Boxes which are flushed with seal water which require evaporation later on. (Ex. Dilute black liquor pumps in pulp & paper industry.	
	Proposed Estimated Annual Seal Expenditure. (Revised Plant Estimate New Seals Only)	
	Average Seal List Price Per Seal	
	Average Cost of 1 hour of Labor With All Benefits Included	
	Average Cost of Shaft or Sleeve Damage	
	Avg. Cost for Bearings, Lip Seals, Gaskets, Etc.	
	Additional Cost of Seasoned Trained Professional vs. Novice Per Hour	
	Cost Per Seal Per Year For Housecleaning (Please Estimate)	
	Annual Cost Of Production Downtime	
	Actual/Estimated Plant Cost for One Failure	
	Cost of Electricity Per Kilowatt Hours	
	Average Cost Of Packing Set	
	Cost of Seal Flush Water Per 1,000 Gallons	
	Evaporation Cost of 1 Gallon of Water	
	Cost of 1 million BTUs	
	Ex. If Plant Seal Water Costs Are .15/1000 gallons and effluent treatment costs are .75/1000 gallons $.75/.15 = 5$	
	Avg. Cost of Product/Gal. (Please keep in mind that fluids like condensate have a cost and should be included)	

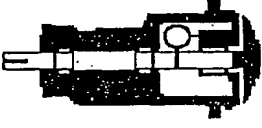
Avg. Labor Cost of Unscheduled Repairs & Maintenance & Operations Combined)	
Production Cost of Machine Time Per Hour (Ex. Paper Machine)	
Cost of Housekeeping Service/Hours	
Split & Unsplit Average Price For Single W/Flow Meter or Double Seal Per Inch (Shaft Sleeve Dia.)	

FIG. 2B

[illegible]

FIG. 3

This is one example of one item on a check list

						The supplier of product responsibility identifier				
<p>This checklist enables front line workers to identify existing conditions in the field which drive all decisions regarding repair/build and purchase of parts, etc. The equipment checklists act as the real world indicators to arrive at scientific precise life expectancy which up until now was only obtained in laboratory conditions.</p>						<p>This section when completed in the field automatically feeds information back to equipment mfgs holding them responsible for life of the product and all costs associated with it. This may become obsolete over time due to the fact that mfgs will not be able to supply these specifications in the future as customers will demand real world solutions.</p>				
Knowledge Based Pictorial/Checklist						Pump Mfg. Specifications	Seal Mfg. Specifications			
Verification Method					When To Check	What to Check Against	What to Check Against	Accountable Party Signoff	Specifications Good/No Good	
Use a dial indicator to verify perpendicularity between the stuffing box face and the shaft O.D.					5 Performers in shop before equipment is disassembled.	Manufacturers Specifications: Stuffing Box Face Perpendicularity Recommended .007" TIR max.	Manufacturers Specifications: Stuffing Box Face Perpendicularity Recommended .003" TIR max.	Example, Seal Mfg assumes responsibility for performance	No Good Value 017	
Achul	0-.002	.002 - .015	.005-.010	.010-.020	.020-.030					
	912 days	386 days	196 days	121 days	45 days			Mfg is held accountable	Recorded from drop down menus	
				*						
General Design	Cartridge & Component	Single Design								
		Double Design								
		Cartridge Design								
		Component Design								
		Stationary Design	0	0	0	0	0			
		Rotary Design	25	58	75	130	200			
		Unbalanced Design								
		Unbalanced Design								
		Tandem Design								
		Back to Back Design								
		Internally Mounted Design								
		Externally Mounted design								
		Large Clearance Design								
		Tight Clearance Designs								
		Double seal with pumping ring design								
Double seal without pumping ring design										

* = the recorded value that applies to your organization

FIG. 4

40

FIG. 34

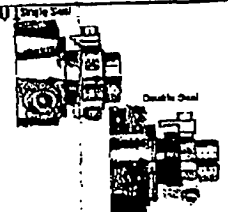
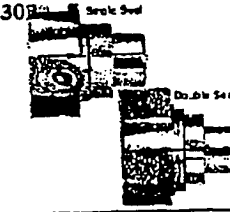
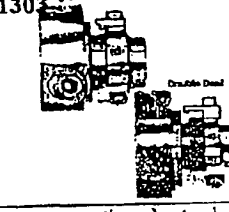
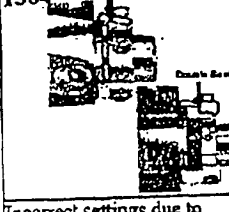
Seal Failure Analysis Inspection Form

To perform a seal failure analysis, you have been provided photos for all seal types typically found in service. Simply click on the photo(s) that best identifies the conditions of the seal you are analyzing.

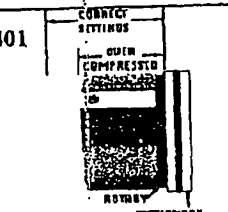
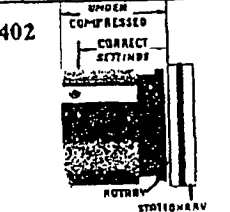
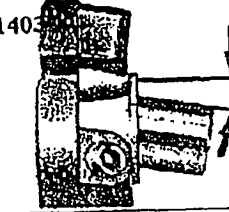
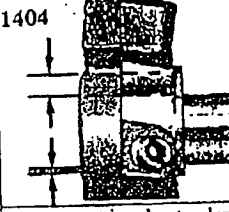
After all applicable pictures have been selected, click on the "When Failure Analysis is Complete Click Here To Go To Seal Failure Analysis Report and Add Additional Comments/Notes If Required." button to continue.

If safety issues allow, inspect parts before and after cleaning as photos require.

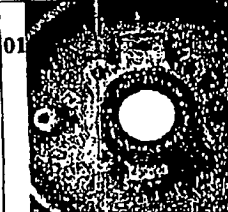
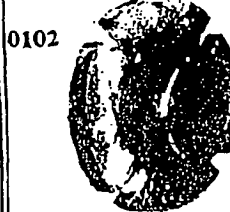
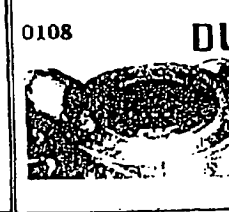
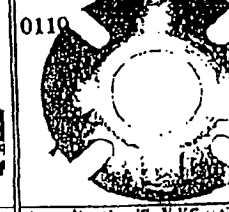
Cartridge Seal: Seal Settings

<p>1301 Single Seal</p>  <p>Incorrect settings due to seal being over compressed: Gap between lock collar and gland is too large. (Axial Direction)</p>	<p>1302 Single Seal</p>  <p>Incorrect settings due to seal being under compressed: Gap between lock collar and gland is too small. (Axial Direction)</p>	<p>1303 Single Seal</p>  <p>Incorrect settings due to gland face to shaft/sleeve not being perpendicular.</p>	<p>1304 Single Seal</p>  <p>Incorrect settings due to shaft/sleeve being off centered to gland. Radial off-centering (up, down, left or right) between shaft/sleeve and gland ID</p>
--	---	---	---

Component Seal: Seal Setting

<p>1401</p>  <p>Incorrect setting due to seal being over compressed: Setting of rotary unit is wrong causing the seal to be over compressed.</p>	<p>1402</p>  <p>Incorrect setting due to seal being under compressed: Setting of rotary unit is wrong causing the seal to be under compressed.</p>	<p>1403</p>  <p>Incorrect setting due to gland face to shaft/sleeve not being perpendicular.</p>	<p>1404</p>  <p>Incorrect setting due to gland not being centered to shaft.</p>
---	---	--	--

Cartridge Seal: Environment

<p>0101</p>  <p>Seal area peaked with product</p>	<p>0102</p>  <p>Seal gland packed with product</p>	<p>0108 DUST</p>  <p>Carbon dust visible on front or top of gland.</p>	<p>0110</p>  <p>Crystallization/Solidification of product on atmospheric side of gland</p>
--	---	--	---

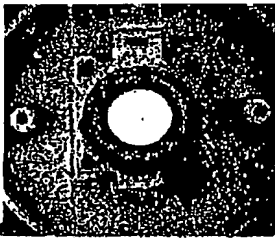


FIG. 5B

Seal area packed with product

Click
Identify the most
probable cause of
failure

RGA FPSRGA Form

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Page 1

	Reason	Cause	Verification	Corrective Action
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thermal sensitive fluids are not maintained in liquid state in the seal area, causing it to build up on seal components	Cartridge: Seal chamber temperature is raised or lowered beyond the solidification point of the process fluid.	Cartridge: Verify the actual solidification point of the process fluid and the temperature maintained in the stuffing box seal area.	Cartridge: Review materials of construction recommendations. Review API plan and heating and cooling plan recommendations to control seal environment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Undissolved solids pack up in the seal area and on the seal components	Cartridge: Heavy concentration of undissolved solids are allowed to accumulate in the seal area.	Cartridge: Verify concentration of the % of solids present in the process stream.	Cartridge: Review materials of construction recommendations. Review API plan and heating and cooling plan recommendations to control seal environment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Undissolved fibrous solids pack up in the seal area on the seal components	Cartridge: Heavy concentration of fibrous solids are allowed to accumulate in the back cover/stuffing box.	Cartridge: Verify concentration of the % of solids present in the process stream.	Cartridge: Review materials of construction recommendations. Review API plan and heating and cooling plan recommendations to control seal environment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thermal cycling resulting in premature seal failure.	Inferior Casing Design For Temperature Control	Please confirm that an inferior casing design for temperature control is being used.	Replace with a superior casing design for temperature control.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thermal sensitive fluids are not maintained in liquid state in the seal area, causing it to build up on seal components	Component: Seal chamber temperature is raised or lowered beyond the solidification point of the process fluid.	Component: Verify the actual solidification point of the process fluid and the temperature maintained in the stuffing box seal area.	Component: Review materials of construction recommendations. Review API plan and heating and cooling plan recommendations to control seal environment.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Skill Level Available 62

Skill Level Available 62	Analyze Component	Determine Information To Make Purchasing Decision	Assess Information	Perform Analysis	Decide on Export Status of product or service										
Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level
Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level	Task From Analyze the Level	Subtask Skill Level

Product/Service
Skill Level Entry
Required
(Example: A
Component
Mechanical Part)

Design
1/5

Control
1/5

Design
1/5

Control
1/5

Design
1/5

Control
1/5

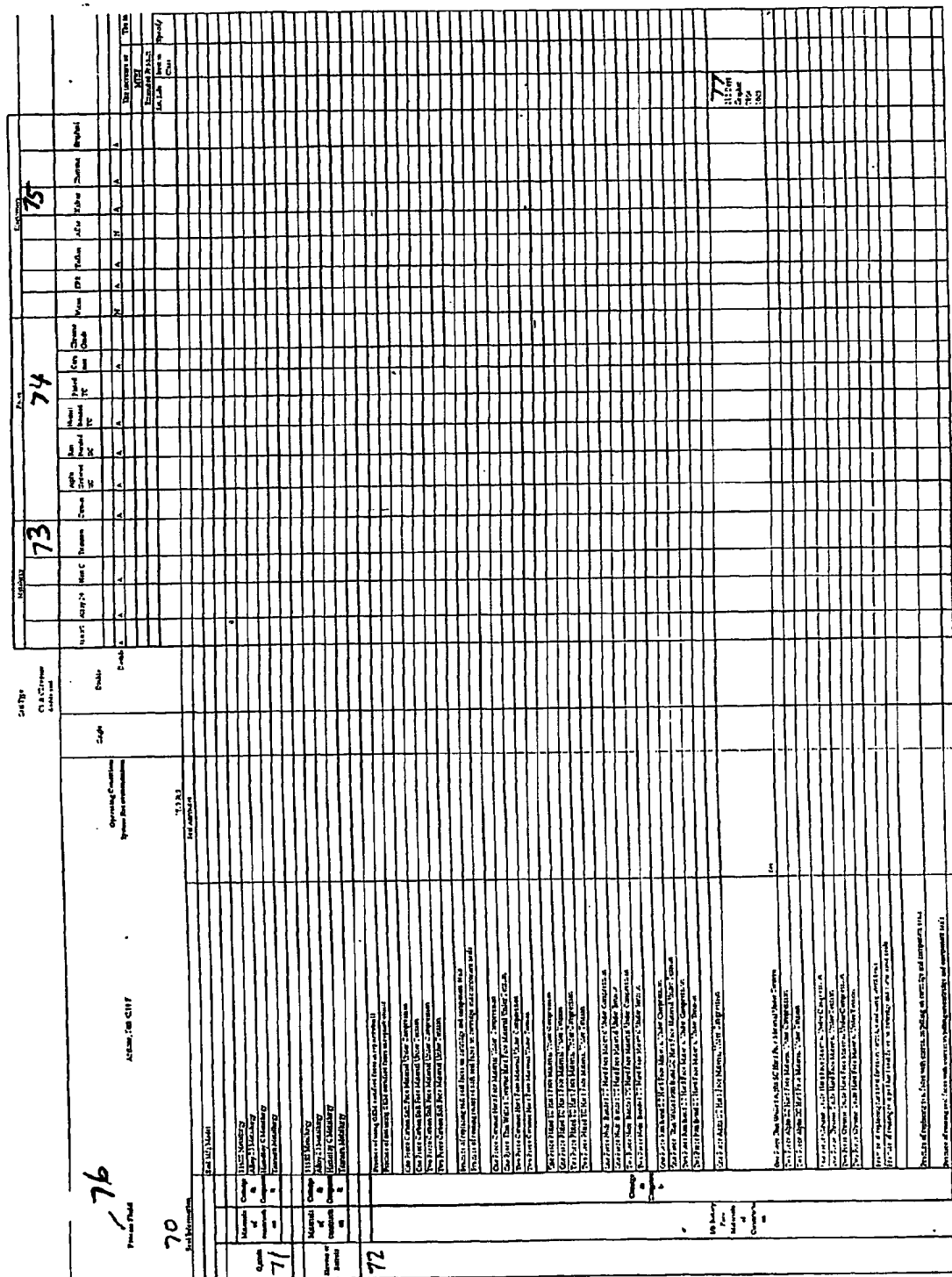


FIG. 7A

Seal:		Product/Service Skill Level Rating Required
Seal itself	Specify	7.5
	Purchase	5
	Install with generic installation instructions	10
	Install with engineered installation instructions	5
	Operate with generic operating instructions	5
	Operate with engineered operating instructions	2.5
	Dispose	2.5
	Seal	2.5
Repair / Rebuild of Seal	Specify	2.5
	Purchase	2.5
	Repair	7.5
	Dispose	5
	Seal	2.5
API Plans for Seal	Specify	7.5
	Purchase	2.5
	Install with generic installation instructions	7.5
	Install with engineered installation instructions	2.5
	Operate with generic operating instructions	5
	Operate with engineered operating instructions	2.5
	Dispose	7.5
	Seal	2.5

FIG. 8

Seal	AV3000175A (Seal)	Seal fits with no modifications
	AV3200175EA (Seal)	Seal fits with no modifications
	3610	Special gland modifications required
	Type 9	Special sleeve modifications required
	155	
	123	

These results come from the CA & SS from ESP

FIG. 9

		Process Fluid
		Acetone; Temp <210 F
		System Recommendations
Recommendations d Seal Type	Single	
	Double	Double
Metalurgy	316 SS	A
	Alloy 20	A
	Hast C	N
	Titanium	A
	Carbon	A
	Alpha Sintered SC	A
	Rxn. Bonded SC	A
Faces	Nickel Bonded TC	N
	Plated TC	A
	Ceramic	N
	Chrome Oxide	N
Elastomers	Viton	A
	EPR	A
	Teflon	N
	Aflas	A
	Kalrez	A
	Chemraz	A
	Graphoil	
	C31- Mfg. Recommends The Use of A Model that supports an option two piece stationary head	No
	Pumping Feature Required	Yes
	Quench & Drain Required	No

FIG. 10

Skill Level Availa ble	Specify	Analyze Constraints	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	~1102
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	~1100
				Mary	3	
		Gather Information To Make Purchasing Decision	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Assess Information	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Perform Analysis	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Decide on Repair/ Rebuild of product or service	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Assess Safety Impact	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Decide Safety Requirements	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Assess Environmental Impact	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Decide Environmental Requirements	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Assess QC Requirements	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Decide QC Requirements	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Assess Mfgs. Capabilities	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Decide on Mfg.	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Decide on Specifications	Work Force Average Skill Level		5	
			Individual Skill Level	John	7	
				Mary	3	
		Decide and Prepare RFQ	Work Force Average Skill Level		7	
			Individual Skill Level	Bill	10	
				Ed	4	
			Work Force Average Skill Level		7	

FIG. 11A

	Purchase	Receive RFQ Responses and Analyze	Individual Skill Level	Bill	10
				Ed	4
			Work Force Average Skill Level		7
		Make Decision To Buy Product	Individual Skill Level	Bill	10
				Ed	4
			Work Force Average Skill Level		6
	Install	Assess equipment condition	Individual Skill Level	Jim	9
				Ray	3
			Work Force Average Skill Level		6
		Install Product	Individual Skill Level	Jim	9
				Ray	3
			Work Force Average Skill Level		6
	Operation	Startup of Equipment	Individual Skill Level	Mike	10
				Jeff	4
			Work Force Average Skill Level		8
		Operation of Equipment	Individual Skill Level	Mike	10
				Jeff	5
			Work Force Average Skill Level		6
	Disposal	Disposal of Equipment	Individual Skill Level	Wayne	6
				Terry	2
			Work Force Average Skill Level		4
	Sell	Decide on Sale	Individual Skill Level	Sue	3
				Lori	5

FIG. 11B

7. Example of some of the data included in an "O Database" for an "O Resource" (Seals)

				John Crane V-9-91-9
				Seal Attributes
General Design 1200	Cartridge & Component	Single Design		Single
		Double Design		
		Cartridge Design		Cartridge
		Component Design		
		Stationary Design		
		Rotary Design		Yes
		Balanced Design		
		Unbalanced Design		Yes
		Tandem Design		
		Back to Back Design		
		Internally Mounted Design		
		Externally Mounted design		Yes
		Large Clearance Design		
		Tight Clearance Design		Yes
		Double seal with pumping ring design		Yes
		Double seal without pumping ring design		
		High Balance Ratio		
		Low Balance Ratio		Yes
		Spring Loaded Design		
		Metal Bellows Design		
		Light Spring Load Per Square Inch		
		High Spring Load Per Square Inch		
		Wide Face Width		
		Narrow Face Width		
Glands	Design	Cartridge & Component	Single Seal with Large Dual Tangential Flush Holes	
		Cartridge & Component	Single Seal with Small Straight Drill Holes Or No Flush Holes	Yes
		Cartridge & Component	Double seal with two flush holes on same surface	
		Cartridge & Component	Double seal with two flush holes 180 degree apart	
	Materials of construction	Cartridge & Component	316SS Metallurgy	Yes
		Cartridge & Component	Alloy 20 Metallurgy	
		Cartridge & Component	Inconel C Metallurgy	
		Cartridge & Component	Titanium Metallurgy	
	Repair & Rebuilding Procedures	Cartridge & Component	Practice of using OEM certified glands in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of not using OEM certified glands in repair/rebuild	
		Cartridge	Practice of replacing glands on cartridge seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of reusing glands on cartridge seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of replacing gland on cartridge seals with damaged (elongated) spring holes	
			Practice of reusing gland on cartridge seals with damaged (elongated) spring holes	
			Practice of replacing cartridge seals with worn anti-rotation lugs, pins, tabs, (tang) in gland	
			Practice of reusing cartridge seals with worn anti-rotation lugs, pins, tabs, (tang) in gland	
			Practice of replacing cartridge seals with missing anti-rotation lugs, pins, tabs, (tang) in gland	
			Practice of reusing cartridge seals with missing anti-rotation lugs, pins, tabs, (tang) in gland	
		Component	Practice of replacing glands on component seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of reusing glands on component seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of replacing gland on component seals with damaged (elongated) spring holes	
			Practice of reusing gland on component seals with damaged (elongated) spring holes	
			Practice of replacing component seals with worn anti-rotation lugs, pins, tabs, (tang) in gland	
			Practice of reusing component seals with worn anti-rotation lugs, pins, tabs, (tang) in gland	
			Practice of replacing component seals with missing anti-rotation lugs, pins, tabs, (tang) in gland	
			Practice of reusing component seals with missing anti-rotation lugs, pins, tabs, (tang) in gland	

FIG. 12A

			Practice of replacing component seals with missing anti-rotation lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s in gland	
			Practice of reusing component seals with missing anti-rotation lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s in gland	
	Materials of construction	Cartridge & Component	316SS Metallurgy	Yes
			Alloy 20 Metallurgy	
			Hastelloy C Metallurgy	
			Titanium Metallurgy	
Sleeves or Barrels	Repair & Rebuilding Procedures	Cartridge	Practice of using OEM certified sleeves in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of not using OEM certified sleeves in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of replacing cartridge seals with worn drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s in sleeve	
			Practice of reusing cartridge seals with worn drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s in sleeve	
			Practice of replacing cartridge seals with missing drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s in sleeve	
			Practice of reusing cartridge seals with missing drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s in sleeve	
			Practice of replacing sleeves on cartridge seals with damaged (elongated) spring holes	
			Practice of reusing sleeves on cartridge seals with damaged (elongated) spring holes	
			Practice of replacing cartridge seals with worn drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s on rotary unit set screwed to sleeve	
			Practice of reusing cartridge seals with worn drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s on rotary unit set screwed to sleeve	
			Practice of replacing cartridge seals with missing drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s on rotary unit set screwed to sleeve	
			Practice of reusing cartridge seals with missing drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s on rotary unit set screwed to sleeve	
			Practice of replacing sleeves on cartridge seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of reusing sleeves on cartridge seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of replacing damaged (fretted) sleeves on cartridge seals	
			Practice of reusing damaged (fretted) sleeves on cartridge seals	
		Component	Practice of using OEM certified barrels in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of not using OEM certified barrels in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of replacing component seals with worn drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s in rotary unit	
			Practice of reusing component seals with worn drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s in rotary unit	
			Practice of replacing component seals with missing drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s in rotary unit	
			Practice of reusing component seals with missing drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s in rotary unit	
			Practice of replacing rotary units on component seals with damaged (elongated) spring holes	
			Practice of reusing rotary units on component seals with damaged (elongated) spring holes	
			Practice of replacing barrels on component seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of reusing barrels on component seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of replacing damaged (fretted) rotary sleeves or barrels on component seals	
			Practice of reusing damaged (fretted) rotary sleeves or barrels on component seals	
Face Holders	Repair & Rebuilding Procedures	Cartridge & Component	316SS Metallurgy	
			Alloy 20 Metallurgy	
			Hastelloy C Metallurgy	
			Titanium Metallurgy	
		Cartridge & Component	Practice of using OEM certified face holders in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of not using OEM certified face holders in repair/rebuild	
		Cartridge	Practice of replacing face holders on cartridge seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of reusing face holders on cartridge seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of replacing face holders on cartridge seals with worn drive/anti-rotation slots	
			Practice of reusing face holders on cartridge seals with worn drive/anti-rotation slots	
		Component	Practice of replacing face holders on component seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of reusing face holders on component seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of replacing face holders on component seals with worn drive/anti-rotation slots	
			Practice of reusing face holders on component seals with worn drive/anti-rotation slots	

FIG. 12B

			Practice of reusing face seals on component seals with worn drive/anti-rotation slots	
Lock Collars	Materials of construction	Cartridge & Component	316SS Metallurgy	
			Alloy 20 Metallurgy	
			Hastelloy C Metallurgy	
			Titanium Metallurgy	
	Repair & Rebuilding Procedures	Cartridge & Component	Practice of using OEM certified lock collars in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of not using OEM certified lock collars in repair/rebuild	
		Cartridge	Practice of replacing cartridge seals with damaged/oversized set screw holes on lock collars.	
			Practice of reusing cartridge seals with damaged/oversized set screw holes on lock collars.	
			Practice of replacing cartridge seals with worn drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s on lock collar	
			Practice of reusing cartridge seals with worn drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s on lock collar	
			Practice of replacing cartridge seals with missing drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s on lock collar	
			Practice of reusing cartridge seals with missing drive lugs, pins, tabs, (tang)s on lock collar	
			Practice of replacing lock collars on cartridge seals with pitted surfaces	
			Practice of reusing lock collars on cartridge seals with pitted surfaces	
		Component	Practice of replacing component seals with damaged/oversized set screw holes.	
			Practice of reusing component seals with damaged/oversized set screw holes.	
1/3 Stationary Face Materials of Construction	Cartridge & Component	Practice of using OEM certified faces in repair/rebuild		
		Practice of not using OEM certified faces in repair/rebuild		
		One Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Compression		
		One Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Tension		
		Two Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Compression		
		Two Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Tension		
		Practice of replacing soft seal faces on cartridge and component seals.		
		Practice of reusing relapped soft seal faces on cartridge and component seals.		
		One Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		One Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		Two Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		Two Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		One Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		One Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		Two Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		Two Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		One Piece Nick Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		One Piece Nick Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		Two Piece Nick Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		Two Piece Nick Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		One Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		One Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		Two Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		Two Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		One Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		One Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		Two Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		Two Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		One Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		One Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		Two Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Compression		
		Two Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Tension		
		Practice of replacing hard seal faces on cartridge and component seals.		
		Practice of reusing relapped hard seal faces on cartridge and component seals.		
		Practice of replacing seal faces with corrosion/pitting on cartridge and component seals.		
		Practice of reusing seal faces with corrosion/pitting on cartridge and component seals.		
Practice of replacing rotary units with fretting corrosion visible on ID of faces				

FIG. 12C

		1	Practice of raising rotary units with fretting corrosion (common on rotary faces that use tellon v rings) visible on ID of faces (Most common on stainless steel chrome oxide plated faces)	
			Practice of using OEM certified faces in repair/build	
			Practice of not using OEM certified faces in repair/build	
			One Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Compression	
			One Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Tension	
			Two Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Compression	
			Two Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Tension	
			Practice of replacing soft seal faces on cartridge and component seals.	
			Practice of reusing relapped soft seal faces on cartridge and component seals.	
			One Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			One Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			Two Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			Two Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			One Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			One Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			Two Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			Two Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			One Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			One Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			Two Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			Two Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			One Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			One Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			Two Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			Two Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			One Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			One Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Tension	Yes
			Two Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			Two Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			One Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			One Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			Two Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Compression	
			Two Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Tension	
			Practice of replacing hard seal faces on cartridge and component seals.	
			Practice of reusing relapped hard seal faces on cartridge and component seals.	
			Practice of replacing seal faces with corrosion/pitting on cartridge and component seals.	
			Practice of reusing seal faces with corrosion/pitting on cartridge and component seals.	
		Component	Practice of replacing rotary units with fretting corrosion visible on ID of faces	
			Practice of raising rotary units with fretting corrosion (common on rotary faces that use tellon v rings) visible on ID of faces (Most common on stainless steel chrome oxide plated faces)	
Faces		Cartridge & Component	Soft Face Combination Carbon/Carbon	
			Soft Face Combination Carbon/Ceramic	
			Soft Face Combination Carbon/Plated TC	
			Soft Face Combination Carbon/Nick. Bonded TC	
			Soft Face Combination Carbon/Rxn Bond SC	
			Soft Face Combination Carbon/Alpha SC	
			Soft Face Combination Carbon/Chrome Oxide	
		Cartridge & Component	Hard Face Combination SC/SC	
			Hard Face Combination SC/TC	
			Hard Face Combination TC/TC	
			Hard Face Combination Cer/Cer	
			Practice of using OEM certified faces in repair/build	
			Practice of not using OEM certified faces in repair/build	
			One Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Compression	
			One Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Tension	
			Two Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Compression	
			Two Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Tension	

FIG. 12D

O/B Stationary Face Materials of Constructi on	Cartridge & Component	Practice of replacing soft seal faces on cartridge and component seals.	
		Practice of reusing relapped soft seal faces on cartridge and component seals.	
		One Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		One Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		One Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		One Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		One Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		One Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Practice of replacing hard seal faces on cartridge and component seals.	
		Practice of reusing relapped hard seal faces on cartridge and component seals.	
		Practice of replacing seal faces with corrosion/pitting on cartridge and component seals.	
		Practice of reusing seal faces with corrosion/pitting on cartridge and component seals.	
	Component	Practice of replacing rotary units with fretting corrosion visible on ID of faces	
		Practice of reusing rotary units with fretting corrosion (common on rotary faces that use teflon v rings) visible on ID of faces (Most common on stainless steel chrome oxide plated faces)	
O/B Rotary Face Materials of Constructi on	Cartridge & Component	Practice of using OEM certified faces in repair/rebuild	
		Practice of not using OEM certified faces in repair/rebuild	
		One Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Carbon Soft Face Material Under Tension	
		Practice of replacing soft seal faces on cartridge and component seals.	
		Practice of reusing relapped soft seal faces on cartridge and component seals.	
		One Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Ceramic Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		One Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Plated TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		One Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Nick. Bonded TC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		One Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		One Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Tension	
		Two Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Compression	
		Two Piece Rxn Bond SC Hard Face Material Under Tension	

FIG. 12E

			One Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Compression		
			One Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Tension		
			Two Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Compression		
			Two Piece Alpha SC Hard Face Material Under Tension		
			One Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Compression		
			One Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Tension		
			Two Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Compression		
			Two Piece Chrome Oxide Hard Face Material Under Tension		
			Practice of replacing hard seal faces on cartridge and component seals.		
			Practice of reusing relapped hard seal faces on cartridge and component seals.		
				Practice of replacing seal faces with corrosion/pitting on cartridge and component seals.	
				Practice of reusing seal faces with corrosion/pitting on cartridge and component seals.	
		Component		Practice of replacing rotary units with fretting corrosion visible on ID of faces	
				Practice of reusing rotary units with fretting corrosion (common on rotary faces that use teflon v rings) visible on ID of faces (Most common on stainless steel chrome oxide plated faces)	
	O/B Faces In Combination	Cartridge & Component		Soft Face Combination Carbon/Carbon	
				Soft Face Combination Carbon/Ceramic	
				Soft Face Combination Carbon/Plated TC	
				Soft Face Combination Carbon/Nick. Bonded TC	
				Soft Face Combination Carbon/Rxn Bond SC	
				Soft Face Combination Carbon/Alpha SC	
Soft Face Combination Carbon/Chrome Oxide					
Hard Face Combination SC/SC					
Hard Face Combination SC/TC					
Hard Face Combination TC/TC					
Hard Face Combination Cer/Cer					
Elastomers	I/B Design	Cartridge & Component	O-ring Elastomer Type		
			Teflon V-Ring Elastomer Type	Yes	
			Teflon Wedge-Ring Elastomer Type		
			Teflon U-Cup Elastomer Type		
	I/B Materials of Construction	Cartridge & Component	Viton Elastomer Material		
			EPR Elastomer Material		
			Teflon Elastomer Material		
			Atlas Elastomer Material		
			Kalrez Elastomer Material		
			Chemraz Elastomer Material		
	Graphfoil Elastomer Material				
	O/B Design	Cartridge & Component	O-ring Elastomer Type		
			Teflon V-Ring Elastomer Type		
			Teflon Wedge-Ring Elastomer Type		
			Teflon U-Cup Elastomer Type		
	O/B Materials of Construction	Cartridge & Component	Viton Elastomer Material		
			EPR Elastomer Material		
			Teflon Elastomer Material		
			Atlas Elastomer Material		
			Kalrez Elastomer Material		
			Chemraz Elastomer Material		
	Graphfoil Elastomer Material				
Repair & Rebuilding Procedures	Cartridge & Component	Practice of using OEM certified elastomers in repair/rebuild			
		Practice of not using OEM certified elastomers in repair/rebuild			
		Practice of replacing elastomers			
		Practice of reusing elastomers			
Design	Cartridge & Component	Spring Type (Wave Spring)			
		Spring Type (Single Coil)			
		Spring Type (Multiple Coil)	Yes		
		Metal Bellows Design			
		Out of Fluid Design			
		Immersed in process fluid Design	Yes		
		Materials Cartridge	316SS Metallurgy		

FIG. 12 F

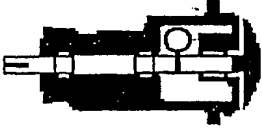
Face Energizing Mechanism	of construction	& Component	Alloy 20 Metallurgy	
			Hastelloy C Metallurgy	
			Titanium Metallurgy	
	Repair & Rebuilding Procedures	Cartridge & Component	Practice of using OEM certified springs in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of not using OEM certified springs in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of using OEM certified metal bellows in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of not using OEM certified metal bellows in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of replacing springs	
			Practice of reusing springs	
			Practice of replacing metal bellows	
			Practice of reusing metal bellows	
Gaskets	Repair & Rebuilding Procedures	Cartridge & Component	Practice of using OEM certified gaskets in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of not using OEM certified gaskets in repair/rebuild	
			Practice of replacing gaskets	
			Practice of reusing gaskets	
Seal Settings				Stuffing Box Face Perpendicularity .001"

FIG. 12G

		Process Fluid
		Acetone; Tem <210 F
		System Recommendations
	Product Temperature	150 F
	Product Crystallizes	Yes
	Product Polymerizes	Yes
	Product is Thermal Sensitive	No
	Specific Gravity	1.1
	Vapor Pressure	45 PSIA
	Viscosity	15000 SSU
	Concentration	75%
	% Dissolved Solids	1%
	% Undissolved Non-Fibrous Solids	0.50%
	% Undissolved Fibrous Solids	2%

FIG. 13

FIG. 14A

1400	MTBF (Mean Time Between Failure) for seals in years	
1402	# of days/year plant operates	
1404	# of hours/day plant operates	
1406	Kilowatts/hours for Avg. balanced seal	
1408	Additional power required for unbalanced seal	
	Average # of repacks or year	
	Average # of adjustments per year per box	
	Average Life of Shaft/Sleeve (in years) Before Replacement Is Required Due To Packing & Bearing Failure Damage	
	Avg. Seal Water (in gpm) Flush Entering Each Packed Stuffing Box, Entering the process stream	
	Average Seal Water Flush (in gpm) required for a single mechanical seal entering the process stream.	
	The Reduction in Seal Water Usage Per Stuffing Box By The Use Of Mechanical Seals	
	Change In Temp. Difference Between System Temp. and Seal Water Flush Temp. (Ex. 85 Deg.F. system temp., 65Deg.F. Seal Water Temp = 20 Deg.F.)	
	Avg. Requirement For A Packed Pump is 2KW Per Hour. Avg. For A Balanced Mechanical Seal Is .33KW Per Hour (The Excess Power Required Per Pump Is 1.67 KW/Hour) Based on 2.000 " seal, adjust up or down by average shaft/ sleeve size in plant	
	Avg. Leakage of Each Stuffing Box in Drops/Min	
	# of Machines With Unscheduled Downtime	
Overall Plant Information	% of Equip. Requiring Unscheduled Repairs As a Result of Excess Leakage (Ex. Bearing failure due to product leakage contamination)	
	Frequency of shaft /sleeve replacement	
	% of Component Seals In Which Installation Is Not Correct The First Time	
	Increased MTBF provided by superior seal design. Average Decrease In Seal Life For The Entire Plant Seal Population Due To Existing Design Deficiencies	
	Increased MTBF provided by ESP software technologies assuring that the correct seals with correct materials of construction and environmental controls with engineering documentation provides unsurpassed plant efficiencies.	
	Increased MTBF provided plant reliability software which enables identification of problems preventing reinstallation of those problems.	
	Overall Decrease in Seal Life Due To Premature Failure. (Over compressed & Under compressed component and erroneous installations)	
	Additional Hours Req'd For Installation vs. Cartridge Design	

FIG. 14A

Labor Information	Additional Hours Req'd For Component vs. Cartridge Design	
	Average Installation Time For A Component Seal	
	Hours Required For Disassembly & Reinstallation of Seal	
	Average # of Manhours Per Repack	
	Average # of Manhours Per Adjustment	
	Average # of Manhours Per Replacement	
	# of Hours Machinery Is Down Per Year Due to Eqp't Failure	
	Attributed to Product Leakage	
	# of Housekeeping / Hours Per Year Per Pump (Cleaning Leakage)	
	# of Hours To Install One Mechanical Seal	

FIG. 14B

FIG. 15

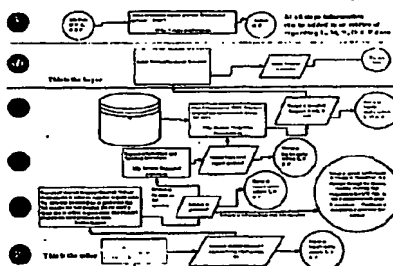


FIG. 16E

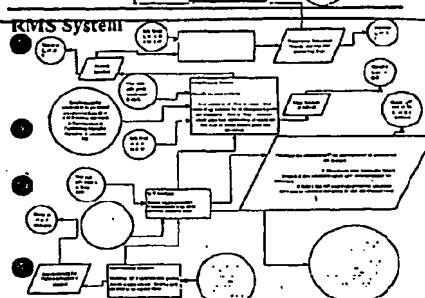


FIG. 16D

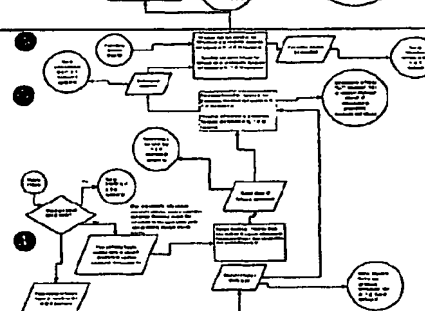


FIG. 16C

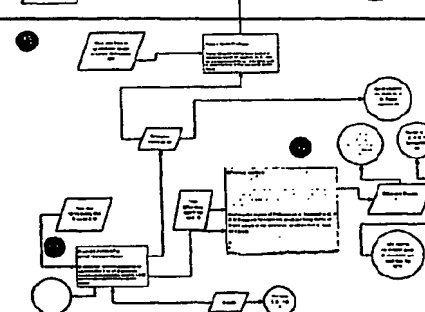


FIG. 16B

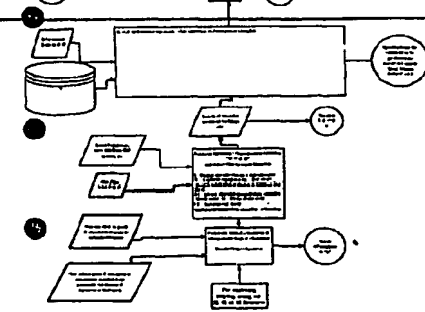
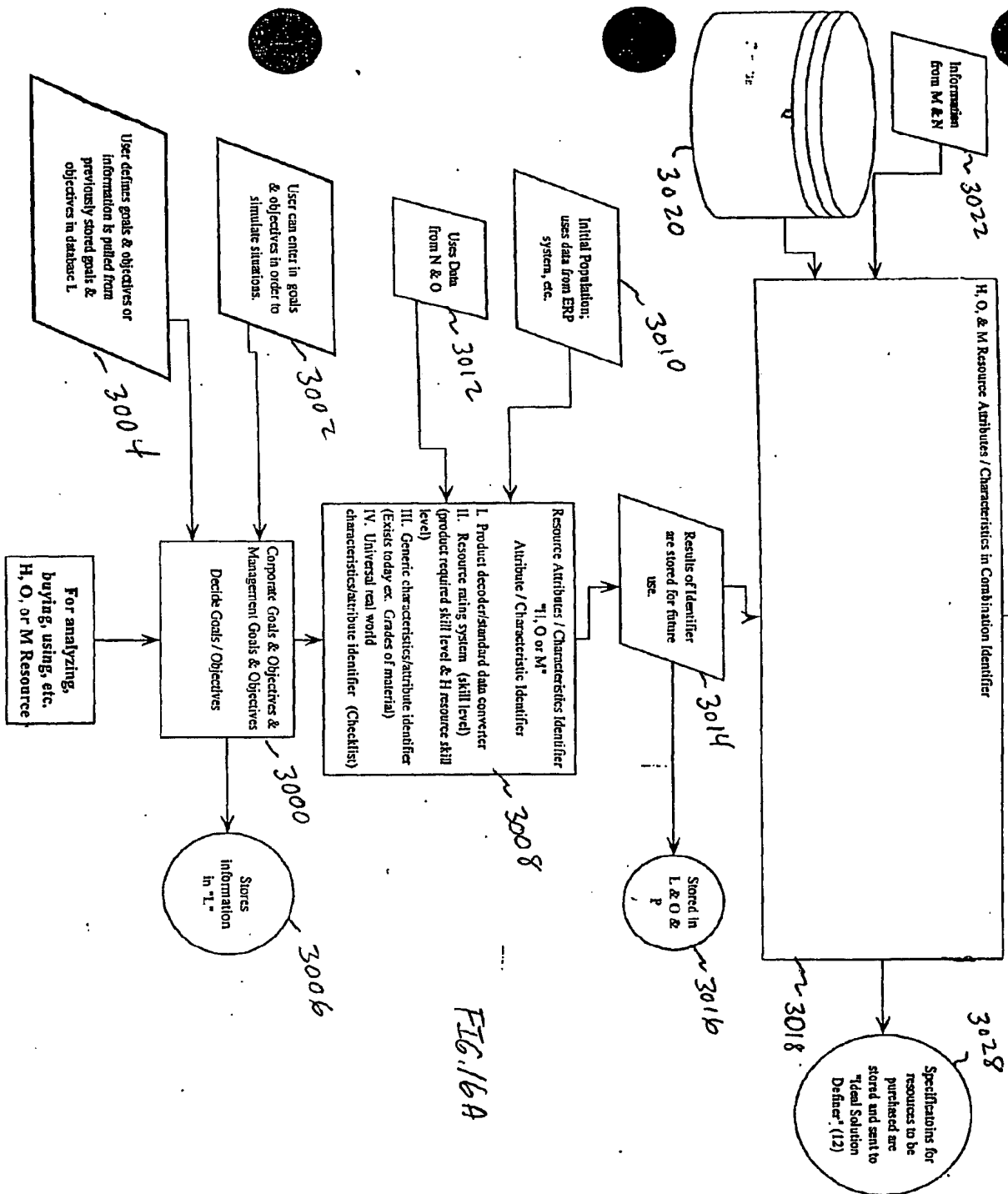
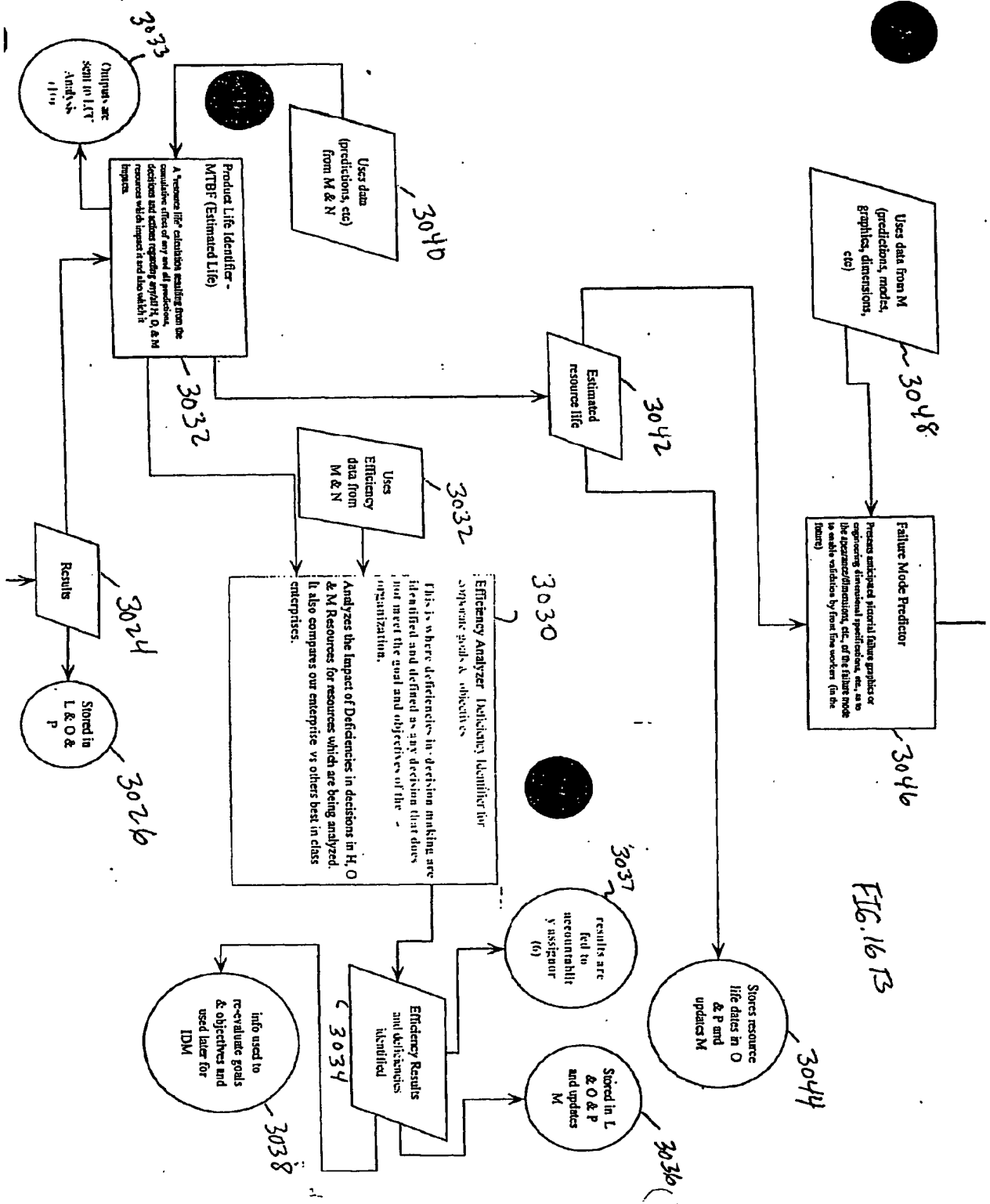
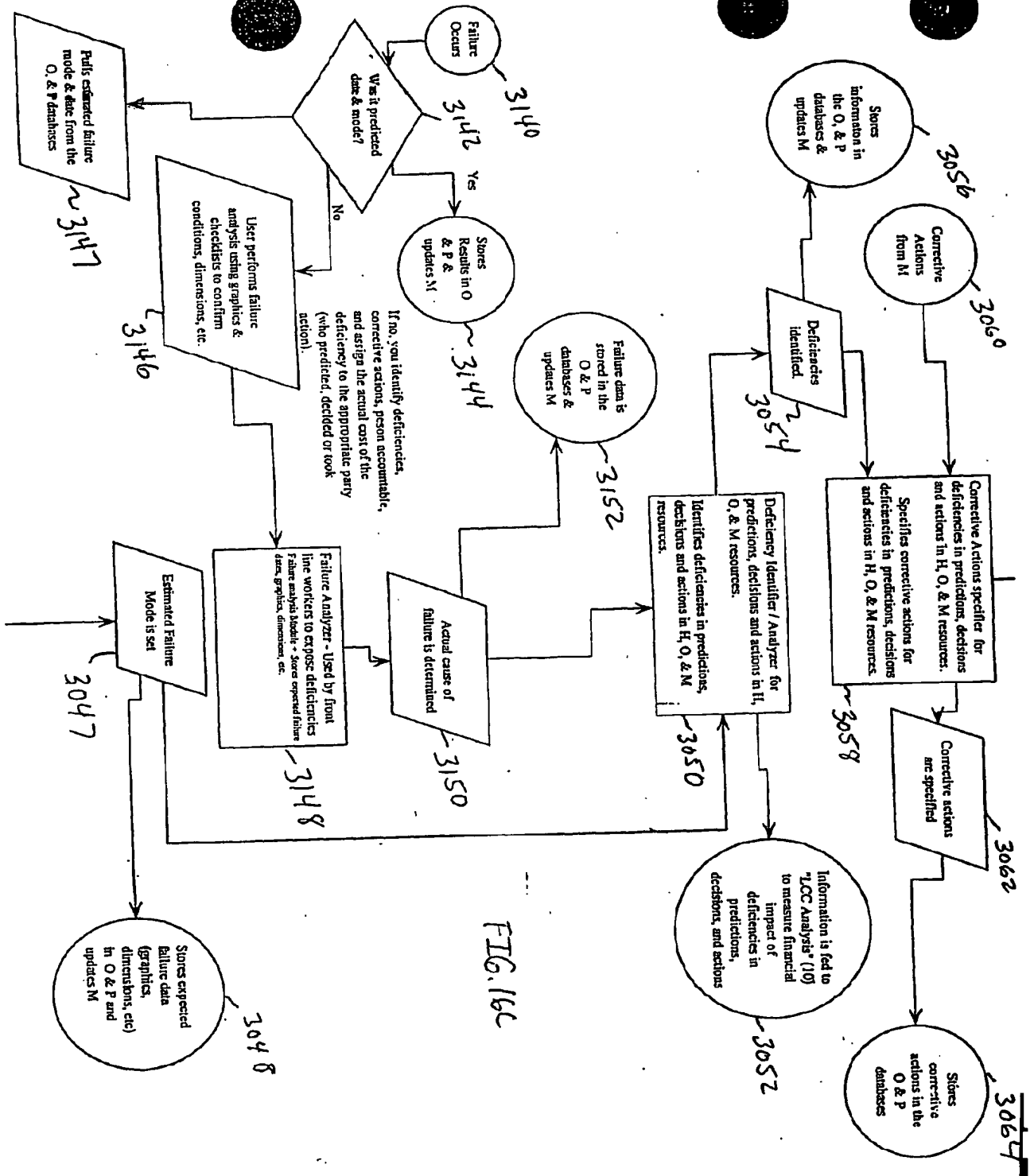
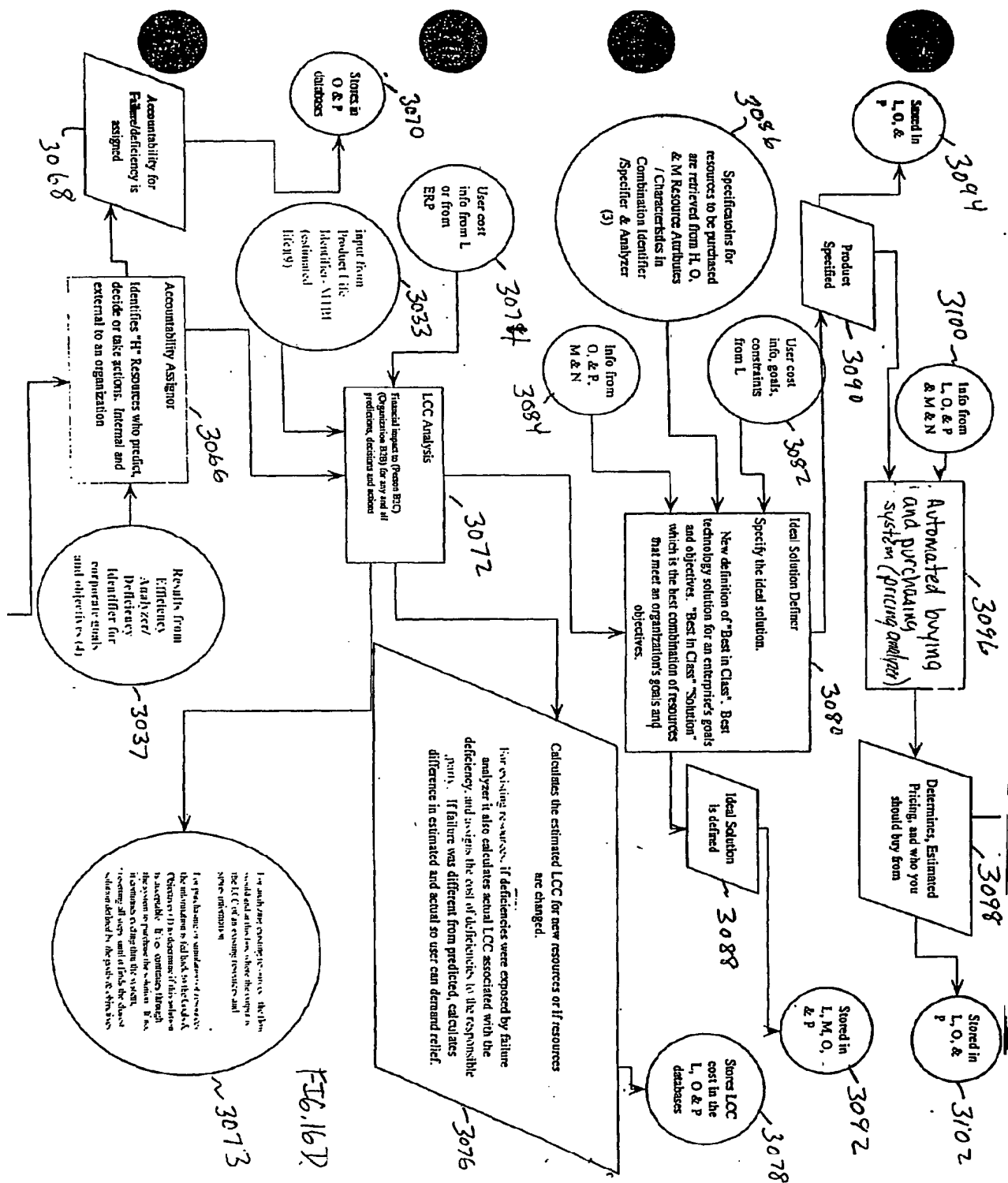


FIG. 16A









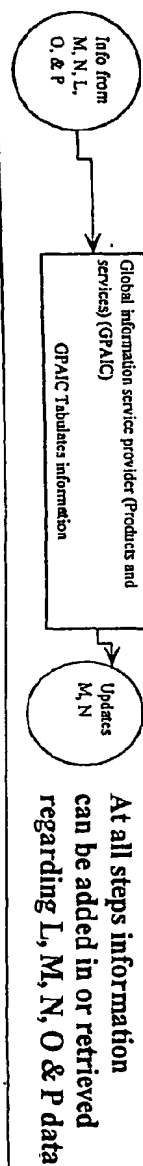
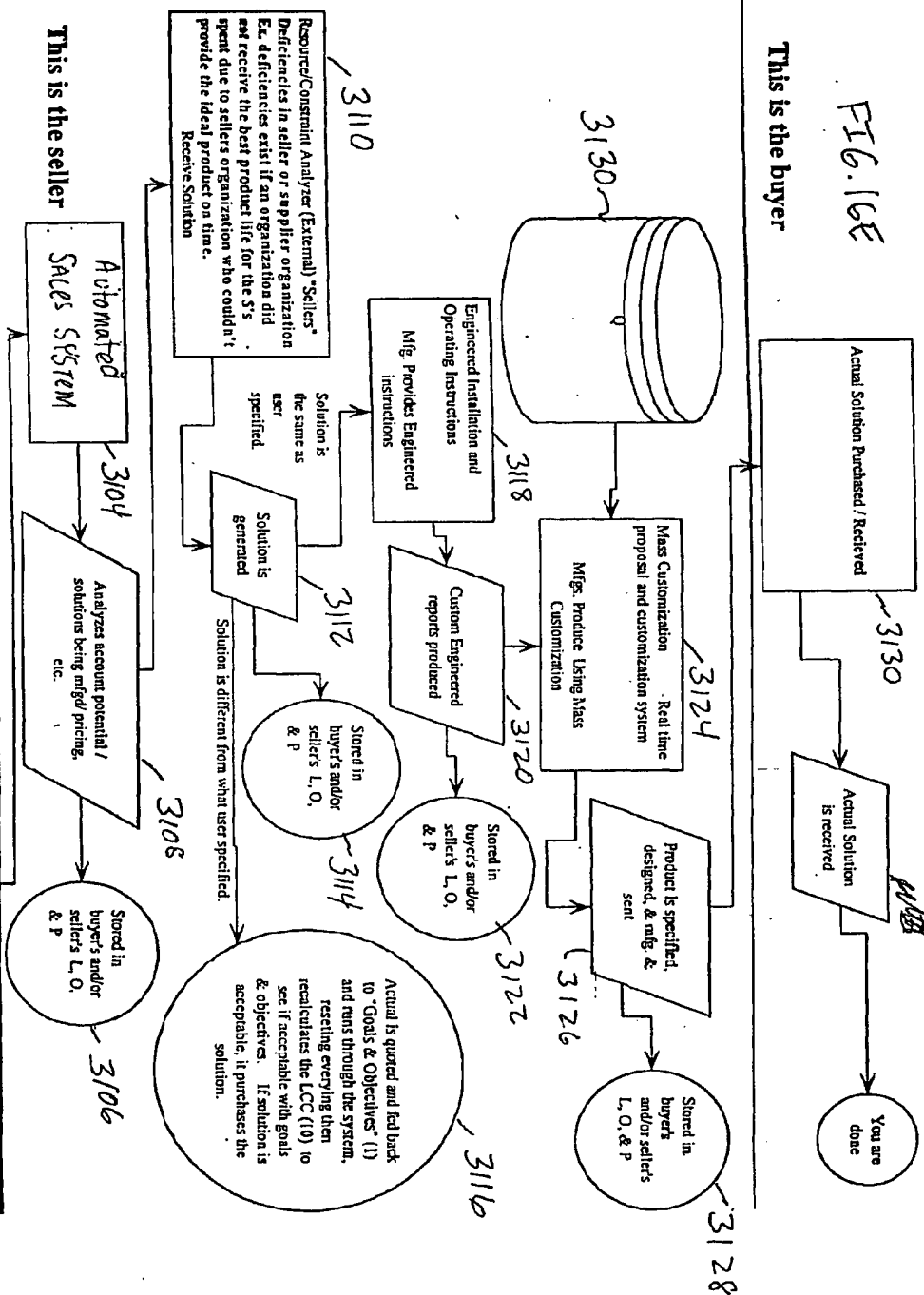


FIG. 16E



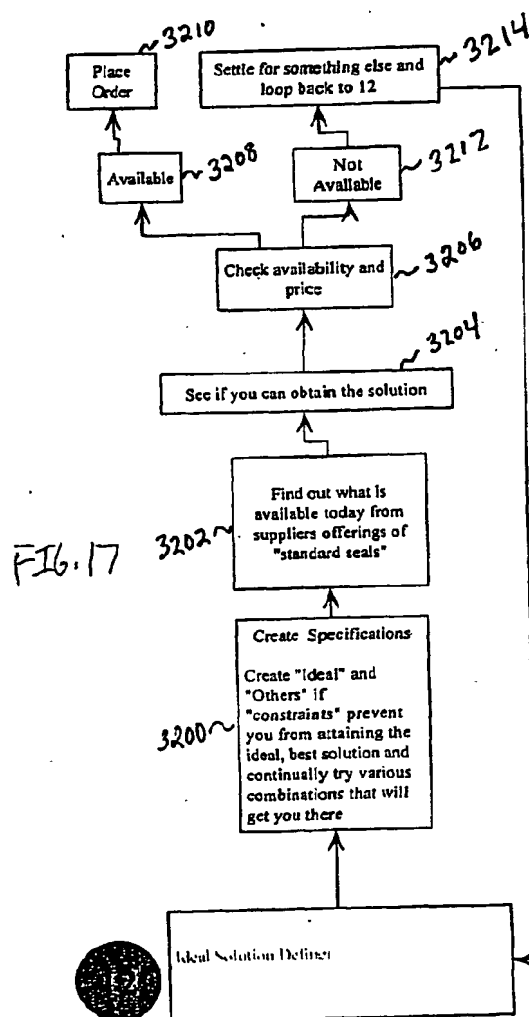


FIG. 18A

1	Each test is performed under controlled laboratory conditions with pre-selected output individuals. Estimated life of each in a controlled environment varies.	New Material Mfg. Performance Laboratory Tests	Mfg. of Component		Face Suppliers					O-ring Suppliers			Gland Suppliers	Gasket Supplier
			Material	Estimated Life	Material P0310	Material P0710	Material P0910	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Etc.	Etc.		
					Estimated life 3 years	Estimated life 15 years	Estimated life 33 years	Estimated life 1 year	Estimated life 5 years	Estimated life 10 years	12 years	5 years		
					1808				1810					
					1802									
2	Each test is performed under controlled laboratory conditions with pre-selected output individuals. Estimated life of each in a controlled environment varies.	Component Mfg. Performance Laboratory Tests	Mfg. of Subassembly		Bearing Mfgs		Bearing Protection Mfgs		Seal Mfgs			Shaft Mfgs	Impeller Mfgs	
			Option 1	Option 2	CA Design with the design system	DL Design made of Viton with a diaphragm.	Double lip seal design made of Viton with a diaphragm.	Balanced design 1920 with face width of 100 with multi-leaf springs, etc.	Shaft with 1200 at 3 inch #2-10.55 with bearing tolerance of .003	Open impeller design				
					Estimated life 30 years	Estimated life 15 years	Estimated life 6 years	Estimated life 5 years	181.2	Estimated life 10 years	Estimated life 6 years			
					1804									
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1814

Estimated life could have been 12 years but now it is 3 years due to less than best in class offerings		End User Plants (Real World)	
Assembly Estimated Life	1800		
1	Invention combined various findings with field findings of 11, 10, & 12 resources in construction and enables predicted outcomes	User of Assembly	
		Design	Installation of Pump with H still level of level of 1
		Estimated Life for each item	Installation of pump with H still level of 10
		Assembly Estimated Life	Equipment Condition South Dam out 10% .010 Equipment Condition South Dam out < .004 1000 days 700 days
		Estimated life could have been 3 years but now it is 192 days due to less than best in class offerings	

FIG. 18B


DECLARATION OF NON-ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 17(2)(a), Rules 13ter.1(c) and Rule 39)

Applicant's or agent's file reference N0362/7008W0	IMPORTANT DECLARATION	Date of mailing(day/month/year) 05/09/2001
International application No. PCT/US 01/ 17601	International filing date(day/month/year) 31/05/2001	(Earliest) Priority date(day/month/year) 31/05/2000
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC		G06F17/60
Applicant NORTHEAST EQUIPMENT, INC . d/b/a DELTA MECHANICAL		

This International Searching Authority hereby declares, according to Article 17(2)(a), that **no international search report will be established** on the international application for the reasons indicated below

1. ☒ The subject matter of the international application relates to:
- a. ☐ scientific theories.
 - b. ☐ mathematical theories
 - c. ☐ plant varieties.
 - d. ☐ animal varieties.
 - e. ☐ essentially biological processes for the production of plants and animals, other than microbiological processes and the products of such processes.
 - f. ☒ schemes, rules or methods of doing business.
 - g. ☐ schemes, rules or methods of performing purely mental acts.
 - h. ☐ schemes, rules or methods of playing games.
 - i. ☐ methods for treatment of the human body by surgery or therapy.
 - j. ☐ methods for treatment of the animal body by surgery or therapy.
 - k. ☐ diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body.
 - l. ☐ mere presentations of information.
 - m. ☐ computer programs for which this International Searching Authority is not equipped to search prior art.
2. ☐ The failure of the following parts of the international application to comply with prescribed requirements prevents a meaningful search from being carried out:
- ☐ the description ☐ the claims ☐ the drawings
3. ☐ The failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions prevents a meaningful search from being carried out:
- ☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
- ☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
4. Further comments:

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer María Rodríguez Nóvoa
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International Application No. PCT/US 01/17601

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 203

Claims 1-80 relate to commonplace technological features for performing a business method. Although these claims do not literally belong to the method category, they essentially claim protection for a commercial effect. With reference to the Guidelines, B-VIII, points 1-6, the International Searching Authority considers that searching such commercial features would serve no useful purpose. This applies to the remaining commonplace technological features of these claims as well.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.